



The Rikki Neave case: Mother accused of murder

Boy's naked body spreadeagled 'like a black magic sacrifice'



Ruth Neave... 'sent six-year-old son out after midnight to buy drugs for her'

SIX-year-old boy strangled and spreadeagled naked in the manner of a Leonardo da Vinci drawing... A court heard yesterday... Rikki Neave's body was found in a wood near a Peterborough housing estate 18 hours after he had been reported missing on a Monday evening two years ago by his 28-year-old mother, Ruth.



Rikki Neave... 'mother said she would kill him if he was not taken into care'

'The book speaks of sacrifice, and that for the highest spiritual working one must choose a victim such as a male child of perfect innocence and high intelligence. That is the most satisfactory victim'

James Hunt, QC prosecuting

He had been strangled, apparently by someone taking hold of his anorak to haul him off the floor, and twisting the clothing in a way that turns the collar into a ligature. So powerful was the force used that an imprint of the zip was left in the skin just under the boy's Adam's apple.

He said the distinct position in which the body had been arranged was no less significant than the manner of his death and was one of the keys to the case. The boy's body was spreadeagled in a hollow in the woods, several hundred yards from his home on the estate.

him round the collar and lifting him off the ground. 'Things were so bad that two days before he died, she asked Cambridgeshire social services to take Rikki into care, after she told a social worker that she would kill him if nothing was done. He was not taken into care.'

usual fascination with death and murder, went to the mortuary "four or five times" to stroke and fondle the boy's body. She showed a keen interest in the work of the pathologist who had carried out the post mortem examination.

Channel ferry merger to sink 1,000 jobs

Influence of Shuttle brings deal between Stena and P&O

Keith Harper and Lisa Buckingham

AT LEAST 1,000 ferry workers will become the first victims of yesterday's decision by the cross-Channel ferry companies P&O and Stena to merge their operations between Dover and Calais.

Table titled 'Channel competition' showing fares for P&O, Stena, and Le Shuttle routes.

Lord Sterling, P&O's chairman, said that the merger was for the "benefit of the populace at large". He declared: "It is a David and Goliath battle, if you like, but history has shown us that David can win. The enemy is the tunnel. We realised there was no point in fighting each other."



business and employ five ferries and one fast craft operating on the Dover-Calais and Newhaven-Dieppe routes. Voting rights in the new company will be held equally, although the deal allows for either side to buy the other out by 2002.

Cheap fares could go

GIVEAWAY £1 ferry crossings and winter "booze cruises" could become things of the past following yesterday's merger of cross-Channel operators, P&O and Stena, writes Lisa Buckingham.

Cloak of fear falls on Kabul

continued from page 1 hand-written leaflet from the Taliban this morning, saying that no woman can talk to a man inside the building. As we spoke, the door of the doctor's office opened, and two nervous young men with long black beards strode in. One carried an AK-47 semi-automatic rifle. They had the grace to smile and shake hands, then started to fire questions.

Council defends canal boat trip for disturbed youngster

Gloucestershire social services spokeswoman said last night. "It is quite high security. People might assume the boy can just jump off on to a towpath and go to pubs but that is not so."

Priceless acting in lewdly funny double bill

Review

Michael Billington

Blue Murder Newcastle Theatre Royal

manages by Nichola McAuliffe. It is, in fact, two plays in one. The first, Foreign Bodies, is set in 1963 - the year, of course, that "sexual intercourse began", according to Larkin - and subverts all the conventions of drawing-room comedy. It takes a once-archaic money for new ships in 2005.

Which leads to the second play, A Game of Soldiers, which is set in 1967 and shows Foreign Bodies being submitted, somewhat belatedly, to the censorious attention of the Lord Chamberlain in St James's Palace.

Advertisement for The Guardian International with text: 'In the Netherlands, you can now get hold of the paper you're holding more easily.'

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Large vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off, featuring a woman's face and the word 'Down'.

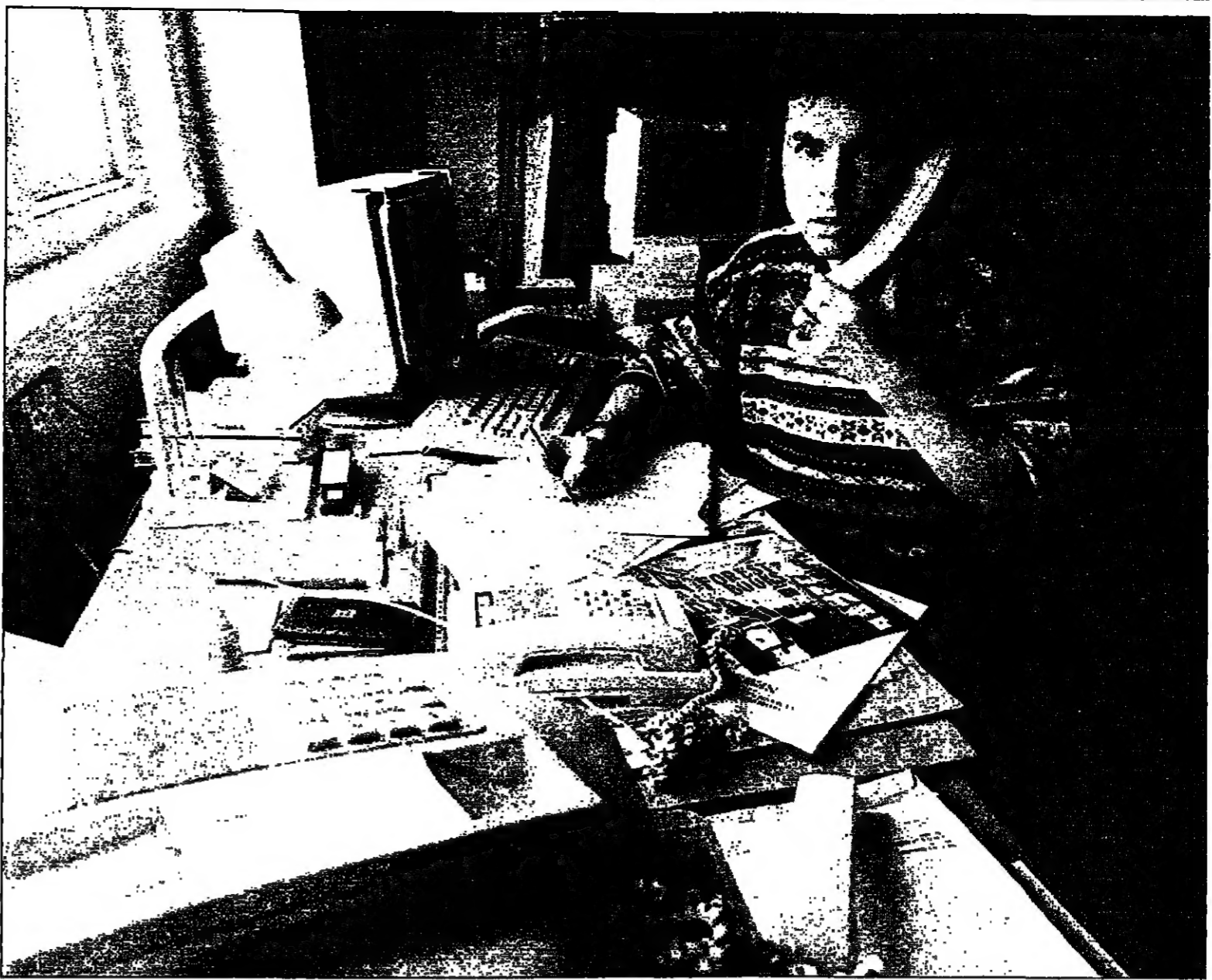


An unlikely alliance of Krakow and Essex yesterday helped a 73 year old writer win the Nobel Prize for Literature

Wislawa Szymborska receiving a Polish Pen Club award

THE 1996 Nobel Prize for Literature has been awarded to the Polish poet Wislawa Szymborska, a 73-year-old former Solidarity activist based in Krakow, writes Adam Czarniawski. Her work is little known in western Europe but her elevation to Nobel laureate is sure to change that...

and now her, it is incredible to have two poets in a row. Szymborska herself, though delighted by the award, was rather less effusive. "This is a difficult situation," she said. "I am normally a very private person and now I foresee some difficult moments..."



William Walker holds the fort during an historic day at the offices of Forest Books, Szymborska's British publisher

Down in the forest something stirred

The terrorist, he watches. The bomb will explode in the bar at twenty past one. Now it's only sixteen minutes past. Some will still have time to enter, some to leave.

Stephen Moss Literary Editor. I WAS supposed to be a quiet Thursday in the office at Forest Books, a tiny publishing house in Chingford, east London. Then the foreign editor of the Times rang then the Guardian and the Independent...

1,000 - the entire print run - and orders were taken from across Europe, with interest especially strong in Scandinavia. It was Forest founder Brenda Walker's greatest moment, but unfortunately she was not there to enjoy it.

known", could not be said to pander to populism. Titles include An Elusive Eagle Soars: An Anthology of Modern Albanian Poetry, a collection of Slovenian short stories, and an anthology of Sorbian (yes Sorbian) poetry.

Poems and is in negotiation for the back list. Joanna Mackle, a director of Faber, said: "It may sound unlikely, but she is somebody we have been chasing for some time."



Brenda Walker: started firm as a hobby

- In illustrious company. Winners of the Nobel Prize for Literature since 1950: 1956 Wislawa Szymborska (Poland), 1956 Seamus Heaney (Ireland), 1957 Kenzaburo Oe (Japan), 1957 Toni Morrison (United States), 1957 Derek Walcott (Trinidad), 1957 Nadine Gordimer (S Africa), 1958 Octavio Paz (Mexico), 1958 Camilo Jose Cela (Spain), 1958 Naguib Mahouz (Egypt), 1958 Joseph Brodsky (United States), 1958 Wole Soyinka (Nigeria), 1958 Claude Simon (France), 1958 Jaroslav Seifert (Czech), 1958 William Golding (Britain), 1958 Gabriel Garcia Marquez (Colombia), 1958 Elias Canetti (Britain), 1958 Czeslaw Milosz (United States).

The unlikely 'disaster'

BARONESS TURNER

Lawrence Donegan. BARONESS Muriel Turner was a most unlikely candidate for the role of New Labour's biggest embarrassment in the last conference before the election. Solid, safe, austere, pompous: views of the former front-bench peer differ widely but no-one who has come across her in the last 25 years would have singled her out as potentially a figure of controversy.



Lady Turner... solid, safe, austere and pompons. Her politics at that time were left-wing, but as the Labour Party changed under Neil Kinnock she moved into the political mainstream.

Duchess drops fight to ban revealing book

Stuart Miller. THE Duchess of York yesterday dropped a legal action to block publication of a book about her private life. She had taken out an injunction against Allan Starck's Fergie, Her Secret Life. Written by the former business partner of John Bryan, it contains embarrassing details about the American financier's relationship with the duchess.

Michael O'Mara Books, the publishers, said yesterday the duchess had been forced to drop the action after a judge asked her to lodge £500,000 with the court in case she lost. She has considerable debts, and would have faced embarrassing questioning.

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Dial the code 01633, then six more figures. Chances are you'll get through to an aspiring pop icon because there are rather a lot of them in Newport at the moment. Friday Review page 10

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News in brief

Gun club official hid weapons in school

A GUN club safety officer was arrested by police yesterday after the discovery of live ammunition in a school where he has worked as caretaker for 10 years.

Allwood 'recovering well'

MANDY Allwood was last night said to be making a good recovery despite being distraught after miscarrying her eighth babies.

'No risk' from HIV surgeon

A HOSPITAL last night sought to reassure more than 800 ear, nose and throat patients after revealing that a surgeon who operated on them was tested HIV positive.

Turk lover wants to visit son

THE Turkish lover of the 14-year-old child bride Sarah Cook, who gave birth to his baby son two days ago, has appealed to the British authorities to grant him a visa so that he can visit the child.

Chemical explosion inquiry

HEALTH and safety experts were last night investigating the cause of an explosion that ripped through a chemicals plant near Bristol, sending a plume of toxic black smoke across towns and villages along the Severn estuary.

Depressed missing out

MISPLACED fears that anti-depressant drugs are addictive and worries that doctors will be unsympathetic mean many people are not seeking help for depression, a survey published today says.

Bob and Paula in custody fight

BOB Geldof and Paula Yates went to the High Court yesterday as the legal battle for custody of their three children got underway.

Revelations strike at heart of sacred trust and payouts to victims place heavy burden on dioceses

Abuse cases stun Catholics

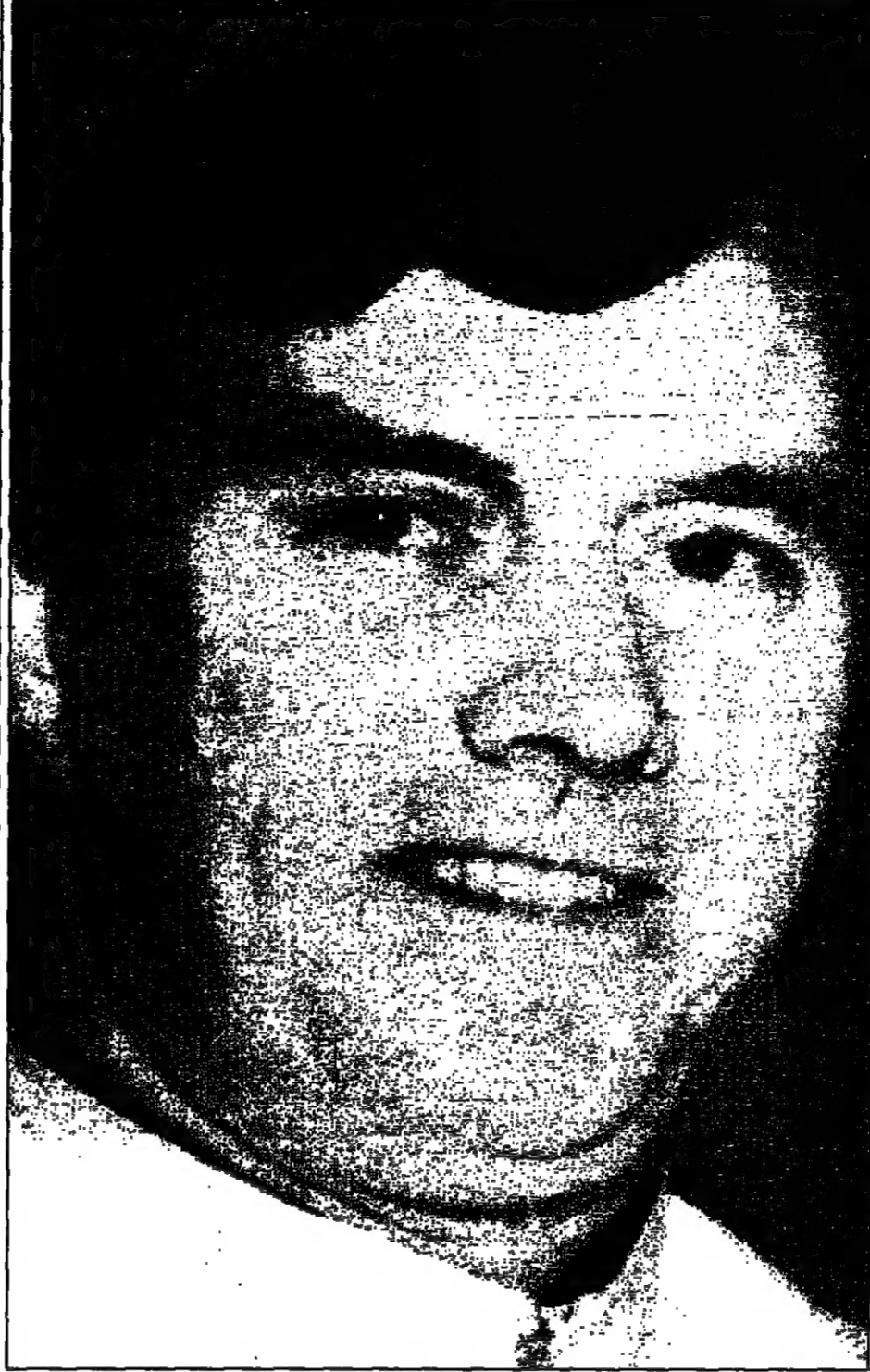
Madeleine Bunting Religious Affairs Editor

NO development has so shocked the worldwide Catholic Church in the last decade as much as the emergence of a substantial number of cases of child sex abuse by priests.

ject of BBC Scotland's allegations - is to cover legal costs in fighting a liability and, only if the church was proved negligent, paying out compensation.

'In the UK the Catholic church is taking no risks these days'

ility of litigation. "It would be fantastically difficult to prove negligence after the implementation of the guidelines," admitted Nicholas Cook, assistant secretary to the Conference of Bishops in England and Wales and one of the working party who drew up the guidelines.



Father Ivan Payne, a Dublin priest, who paid £27,500 compensation in 1993 to a man who claimed he was sexually assaulted by him while serving as an altar boy at a holiday camp. The money was borrowed from diocese funds

Teenager assaulted after plea for refuge

Case study

Maggie O'Kane

CHRIS, a 24-year-old Glasgow man who says he was sexually abused by a priest when he was 17, plans to force the church to pay him compensation in court.

Tories 'poised to lurch to the right'

Survey shows most prospective candidates to be Euro-sceptics and supporters of death penalty

Ewan MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

THE Conservative Party is set to lurch to the right after the general election, according to a survey of prospective candidates published today.

There is a post-election leadership contest. Until now, the expectation at Westminster has been that the right would outnumber the left 2-1 among the new intake.

prospective candidates in 76 seats where the sitting Tory MP is to stand down. Most have a good chance of winning unless there is a huge swing to Labour.

Economist, John Major emerged as the favourite to continue as leader among Conservative voters, with 37 per cent support, compared with 16 per cent for Michael Heseltine.

Theologian in heresy inquiry may resign from 'Wee Frees'

Erland Clouston

ONE of Britain's leading theologians may walk out on his church after it cleared his opponents of an ultra-Calvinist conspiracy and instead accused him of heresy.

compared to Jesuits in their fanaticism by Sheriff John Horsburgh. "I am quite stunned; this puts me back in the dock," said Prof Macleod.

Victim of the IRA cause buried in Irish village

David Sharrock on a dignified tribute

DIARMUID O'Neill, the IRA suspect shot dead by anti-terrorist police in west London 11 days ago, was buried yesterday according to his family's wishes.

Mayhew before the ending of the IRA ceasefire last year, was the most senior republican present.

O'Neill's elder sister, Siobhan, and younger brother, Shane, read prayers. Siobhan, a nurse at a London hospital, said: "May God give us the serenity to accept those things that cannot be changed, the courage to change the things that can be changed, and the wisdom to know the difference."



Theresa and Eoghan O'Neill, with daughter Siobhan, left, and Karmele Ereño, with roses, at the funeral of Diarmuid yesterday

Advertisement for 'An adventure of a lifetime...and it's FREE' featuring a hike in Egypt. Includes details about the 6-day hike, spectacular desert canyons, sunrise on Mt Sinai, swimming in the Red Sea, and a price of £195 plus minimum sponsorship. Contact number: 0345 69 79 69.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, partially cut off. Visible text includes 'Straw see', 'out regim', 'for drug', 'criminals', and 'See how costs to see family's fu'.

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# Straw sets out regime for drug criminals

Alan Travis  
Home Affairs Editor

**T**HE courts will be able to order mandatory drug testing and treatment programmes for those who commit serious drug-related crimes under new proposals unveiled by Jack Straw, the shadow home secretary yesterday.

## 'Heroin addicts steal more than £1bn worth of property a year'

Mr Straw also detailed his party's pledge to introduce a ban on ownership and possession of handguns, but it emerged that single shot sporting pistols below 0.22 calibre may yet be exempted. Labour's new proposal for a drug testing and treatment order is based on similar schemes run in California, and is designed as an alternative to prison. All offenders convicted of drug dealing, drug possession, burglary or theft — and assessed by the court through a pre-sentence report — would also face a new regime of drug testing for heroin, other opiates and cocaine.

dicts have doubled," Mr Straw told the conference. "It is not just the addicts themselves who suffer. The public does as well, with heroin addicts thieving daily to fund their habit at a cost of well over £1 billion in property stolen by them each year. It is time to call a halt to this vicious circle of addiction and crime."

He added that too often heroin addicts were in court for stealing 20 stereos a day and then insisted they had not got a problem.

The shadow home secretary believes that the savings in costs to the criminal justice system in dealing with repeat drug offenders would more than cover the resources involved in the large scale expansion in drug treatment programmes.

The idea was cautiously welcomed by the police and by penal reformers yesterday. Paul Cavadin, the chair of the Penal Affairs Consortium, which represents 31 organisations in the criminal justice system, gave the proposal a qualified welcome, saying it made sense to identify and deal with more drug offenders by intensive treatment in the community.

He said he wanted to see the detail of how the proposed testing arrangements would work but agreed that the cost of drug treatment programmes would be more than recouped by a reduction in drug-related crime.

Mr Straw also detailed the party's pledge on gun control, saying it would cover bans on both the private ownership and possession of all hand guns the prohibition is in line with the party's evidence to the Cullen inquiry into the Dunblane massacre and leaves open whether single-shot target shooting pistols under 0.22 calibre, which are kept at shooting clubs, should remain legal.

The conference heard a moving appeal by the organisers of the Dunblane School Drop Petition urging Labour to ban these guns as well.



A Labour delegate listening to Ann Pearson's plea on behalf of the victims of Dunblane

PHOTOGRAPHS: MARTIN ARGLES

## Don't weaken guns ban pledge, pleads Dunblane petition organiser

Alan Travis

**A**NN Pearson, organiser of the 750,000-signature Dunblane School Drop Petition, yesterday made a moving plea to Labour not to stop short of a comprehensive ban on handguns. Her speech was followed by the conference standing in silence in memory of the 16 victims of Thomas Hamilton at Dunblane primary school.

after Hungerford despite the fact that nine of Ryan's victims were killed with a legally held pistol. Why not? Because the gun lobby fought tooth and nail to preserve the long-established sport of target shooting. This sport allows people like Hamilton easy access to guns.

measure to prevent another Dunblane. "But I'm afraid I can't." Any legislation that fell short of a ban on handguns would mean "we and our children are expendable so that target shooters can retain their right to pursue a sport that uses weapons designed to kill."



Ann Pearson: disbeliever of gun lobby's promises

## Sketch

# Cheer leaders put clapometer in spin



Simon Hoggart

**F**IRST an apology. Yesterday I may inadvertently have given the impression that the speech by Harriet Harman received almost as warm a reception from the delegates to the Labour Party's conference as that earlier by Barbara Castle.

I am privately informed by a Labour spin doctor that that was not the case. In fact, Miss Harman's applause was led by the so-called "strategic clappers", who are placed round the hall by the party's apparatchiks to clap and cheer any speaker who needs a little help.

They can be spotted by the way they stretch their arms as wide as possible, in the manner of an angler boasting about his fish, then slamming them together to create a sound similar to the battle of Monte Cassino.

The spin doctor assured me that far fewer of the real delegates were cheering Ms Harman's speech. I should like to express sincere regret for my mistake and any distress it may have caused.

I did not notice any strategic clapping for Jack Straw, the shadow home secretary, who declared: "There is only one party of law and order and that party is the Labour Party."

members of the shadow cabinet who gives the impression that he believes poor people, who suffer much more from crime than most of us, might be worth support and protection.

Earlier, Clare Short spoke in the debate on foreign affairs — or "leadership in the world" as it is called, since under New Labour debates do not have titles but slogans.

It was her job to speak against unilateral nuclear disarmament (or "using our weapons to get rid of more weapons" in the mystifying slogan adopted to replace the motto "fight, fight and fight again").

Being a lefty herself, Ms Short is often put up to dampen the left's expectations. She did it again yesterday, with obvious sincerity but without much passion.

At times, the whole conference seems to be in an obedient trance. It all got too much for one man in a Hawaiian shirt, who leapt to the rostrum to say that not one of the constituency delegates that had been called was in favour of unilateral nuclear disarmament.

Robin Cook, the chairman, assured him, somewhat improbably, that it had been an accident. But it left open the more important question: how had the man got on stage in the first place? And near the start of the live television transmission?

It brought to mind another film scene — the end of every James Bond film in which he gets into the villain's secret lair disguised as a technician, then sabotages the H-bomb or whatever. The party's brass must have felt like Goldfinger, screaming: "It's Bond! Seize him and bring him to me!"

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## Party pitches for top sport events

### Cunningham backs drive for World Cup and Olympics

John Duncan  
Sports Correspondent

**J**ACK CUNNINGHAM, the shadow national heritage secretary, yesterday committed Labour to the campaign to bring the world's two greatest sporting events to Britain when he promised forceful and practical support for attempts to attract the 2006 soccer World Cup and 2008 Olympics.

The Football Association have the emphatic backing and support of the Labour Party in the bid for the 2006 World Cup, Mr Cunningham said. "Priority one for us is a World Cup bid, the logical next step from Euro 96," said David Davies, the FA's head of communications. "Make no mistake, our reputation for staging events has soared since the summer. The time is right for us. We are already

events and that's why we will also be backing the hosting of the Olympics." Government and Labour officials could be used to beef up the campaigns, he said.

The British Olympic Association has decided not to bid for the 2004 Olympics, but is almost certain to put London forward for the 2008 Games. FA representatives have started gathering preliminary information in the United States to assist their World Cup bid. Decisions by Fifa and the IOC on both will be taken within the lifetime of the next government.

"Priority one for us is a World Cup bid, the logical next step from Euro 96," said David Davies, the FA's head of communications. "Make no mistake, our reputation for staging events has soared since the summer. The time is right for us. We are already

taking the first steps on what may be a long and difficult task to bring the biggest event of all to England again. If we do not bring this World Cup in 2006, it won't be here for another 20 years on top of that. The World Cup no longer alternates back and forth over the Atlantic — we are talking about Africa, Asia and other places."

Tepid government backing for bringing large sports events under Margaret Thatcher set Britain back many years, greatly hindering Manchester and Birmingham in their Olympic bids in the past.

While John Major has attempted to redress that balance — for example committing millions of pounds to the clearing of land for a new Manchester stadium on top of directing £180 million of lottery money to a new national stadium — Mr Cunningham said Labour was taking the lead on sport. "We are the only ones who have a coherent policy for sport and for

football in particular," said Tom Pandry, the shadow minister for sport.

The Labour Party Charter for Football commits Labour to setting up a task force made up of people within the game aimed at drawing up the necessary strategy. "When it comes to sport," said Mr Cunningham, "the Labour Party is a Premier League outfit while the Tories still languish in the Vauxhall Conference."

Mr Cunningham also decried the Government's commitment to grassroots sport. "Mr Major claims to be committed to raising the standard of sports in schools but his government's record is abysmal in that regard," he said.

Since 1981 more than 5,000 school playing fields have been sold off, and 2,000 are under threat. The number of PE teachers has halved with less than 25 per cent of children doing more than two hours of PE a week.

Picture, page 18

## Second Trident vote victory over nuclear disarmers heralds new era, says Clark

Rebecca Smithers  
Political Correspondent

**L**ABOUR yesterday laid to rest the threat of leaving dissent over nuclear arms when for the first time a majority of constituency activists voted to retain the Trident nuclear missile.

The Labour leadership claimed victory after delegates rejected a motion calling for Trident to be scrapped by 58.35 per cent to 43.65 per cent in a card vote. In the past the party was always saved by the union block vote but this year its policy was endorsed by both sections of the conference.

It was the second year running that the leadership's will prevailed on an issue which for many years before provided a rallying point for the left on which to inflict embarrassing defeats on party leaders.

David Clark, the shadow defence secretary, said the result "heralds a new era in the history of our party."

on defence should now be gone for ever. I hope that the arguments over Trident have become a relic of the past."

The vote followed an appeal for unity by Clare Short, the shadow overseas development minister and an NEC member. She told delegates efforts to get a worldwide nuclear arms ban were more likely to succeed through active participation in talks than through a "one-off unilateral gesture."

Labour's policy involved "using our weapons to get rid of more weapons. This must be a better way to use our influence."

But Chris Puriell, from Orpington, moving the motion to scrap Trident, warned: "As long as nuclear weapons remain on this earth, there is a danger of nuclear war. Don't be put under the illusion that humanity would survive a nuclear war. We would all be destroyed."

He was backed by Dave Brown, from Huntingdon, who described nuclear weapons as a "affront to civilisation."

policy had lost its electoral support at the last election.

"British people won't elect a government that they do not trust with the defence of our country," he said.

Later CNL welcomed Labour's renewed commitment to pursuing an international agreement on total nuclear disarmament.

But it strongly criticised the leadership for ducking the Trident issue and challenged a new Labour government to recall Trident to ports and pledge it would not be replaced.

Ms Short, who took over the overseas development portfolio in the July reshuffle, also paid a warm tribute to her predecessor, the much-loved leftwing veteran Joan Lester, who is stepping down as an MP at the election.

## Services ban on gays opposed

LABOUR yesterday signalled overwhelming opposition to the ban on gays in the armed forces.

A motion calling for equal rights for homosexuals in the services was carried unanimously, on a show of hands. It also called for new laws to make it a criminal offence to print, publish or distribute material denying the existence of the Holocaust.

Alan Dobbin, from Hornsey and Wood Green, proposing the motion, told the conference that many gay men and lesbians had fought and died for Britain.

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Chancellor Helmut Kohl towers above the Italian prime minister, Romano Prodi, whose draconian budget may not satisfy Germany or France that Rome will keep its deficit down

The drive to qualify for monetary union by next year's deadline makes this crunch time for governments to draw up harsh budgets. **John Hooper** in Rome reports on how protests and rows, like that between France and Italy, are exposing tensions at the heart of the euro idea

## Europe becomes swear word as day of reckoning looms

EVENTS in Europe this week must have brought an ironic smile to the lips of more than a few who question the wisdom of the drive for monetary union. On Monday French teachers staged a 24-hour strike in protest against plans to axe 5,000 jobs: part of an austerity budget designed to ensure that the country's financial indicators meet the criteria agreed by European Union leaders at their summit in Maastricht five years ago. On Tuesday more than German 100,000 engineering workers took to the streets to contest a new law allowing companies to reduce minimum statutory sick pay. That, too, is the product of a drive for budgetary stringency. The deadline for compliance with the Maastricht criteria is the end of next year. But now is the time governments are drawing up their 1997 budgets, making this their last chance to fall into line. The crunch has come, and its echoes are being

heard across the Old Continent. Spain's *El País* has a good claim to have been the most enthusiastically *communitaire* of Europe's newspapers. Yet earlier this week it gave pride of place on its opinion pages to a French journalist's criticisms of the institutional arrangements for monetary union. Among the last to realise that the day of reckoning has arrived was Italy's prime minister, Romano Prodi. Until last month, when he dropped in on the Spanish prime minister, José María Aznar, he seemed under the impression that the issue need not be addressed for at least a year. Until a fortnight ago, his government planned a budget with a deficit well above the limit for the lira to enter the new euro. It had been the common wisdom to doubt whether the euro area could be launched on time. But Professor Prodi's mistake was to ignore repeated French and German warnings that it could and would be.

Italian officials were then hastily ordered to cobble together a budget that would cut almost twice as deep into the deficit, and on Friday the cabinet approved perhaps the most draconian programme of tax increases and spending cuts dreamed up by a post-war Italian government. According to official figures, the average family will pay 2435 more tax. As realisation grows of the sacrifices to be made, attitudes are being transformed in a country once dominantly pro-European. "The word Europe, which already inspired grave misgivings — for years now every increase, cut or belt-tightening has been put down to the need to bring Italy into line with Europe — is now almost a swear word," wrote Lietta Tornabuoni in yesterday's *La Stampa* newspaper. "People are asking sardonically, why not go into Asia or Oceania if this is the price?" The mood has not been improved by suggestions from the French president, Jacques Chirac, that Italy — with or without its draconian budget — will not be in shape by the end of next year. On Tuesday, Prof Prodi called in the French ambassador for a rare carpeting.

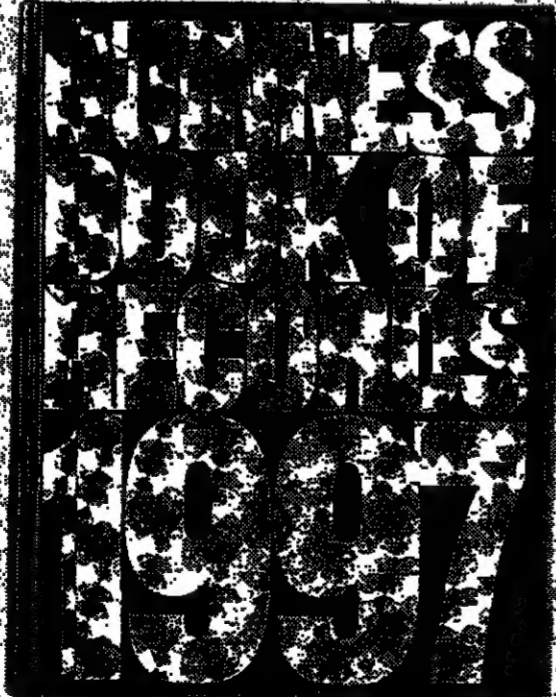
The row, still simmering as the French and Italian leaders met in Naples yesterday, goes to the very heart of the reasons for — and the difficulties with — European monetary union. As events have shown since the lira followed the pound out of the ERM in 1992, a single market has difficulty working without a single currency. The subsequent depreciation of the lira has given Italian exporters a competitive advantage in the EU which is particularly resented by France. Even after backtracking on the question of Italy's readi-

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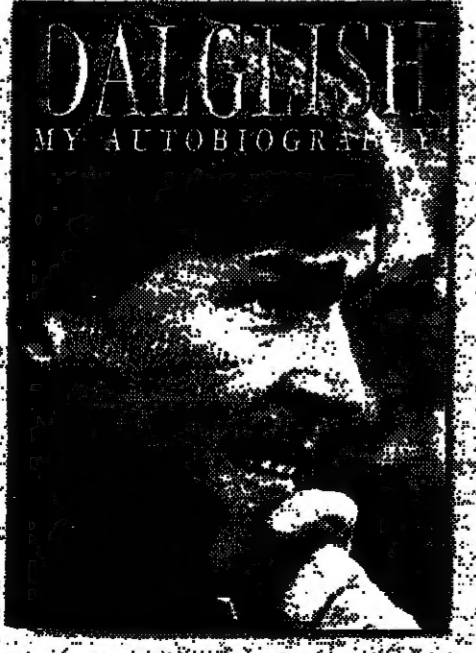
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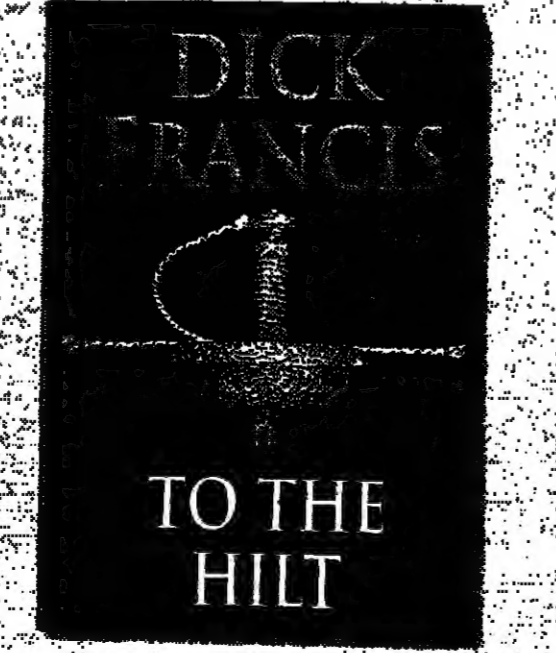
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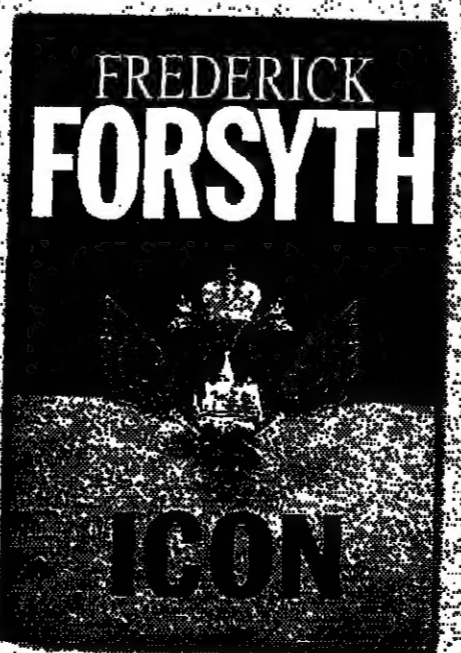
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### Kohl starts countdown in Dublin to 'Maastricht Three' treaty

THE German chancellor, Helmut Kohl, has served notice that he will push for a third Maastricht treaty if the present negotiations do not result in a sufficient reform and strengthening of the European Union, writes *John Palmer in Brussels*. His call for a possible "Maastricht Three" treaty will ensure that British politics remain overshadowed by the bitter domestic debate on Europe at least until the end of the decade. Speaking in Dublin before the special weekend EU summit, Mr Kohl said that, without progress in

the treaty review, an additional treaty would be needed before the EU could absorb new members from central Europe and the Mediterranean. "If our current negotiations do not solve all the problems, then there will be a Maastricht Three," he said after meeting the Irish prime minister, John Bruton, who will host the Dublin talks. Germany, France and the more integrationist EU governments accept that the treaty now being negotiated will not make all the moves towards political union they had hoped for.

### Hague's new top prosecutor demands help for tribunal

Ed Vulliamy CANADA'S leading civil liberties judge, Louise Arbour, yesterday became the new chief prosecutor at the Hague war crimes tribunal, succeeding Justice Richard Goldstone of South Africa. Judge Arbour, aged 49, takes over at a critical period for the tribunal's credibility and judicial efficacy. Most of those indicted for crimes including genocide in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda are still free. In her introductory remarks yesterday, Judge Arbour demanded that the international community enhance its efforts to aid the tribunal's investigations, even where assistance flew "in the face of short-term interests which militate against a long-term investment in peace rooted in justice. In what appeared to be criticism of I-For, the Nato force in Bosnia, she warned: "If the tribunal does not get the as-



Justice Goldstone left saying the tribunal had little time to prove its mettle and its work had been hampered by outside diplomatic interests. Judge Arbour will hold office for four years. assistance that it is entitled to in its efforts to bring indicted war criminals to trial, its perceived failure may exacerbate the tensions that it was designed to appease.

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Baby hurt in gang blast

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# Baby hurt in gang blast

**Ed Vulliamy**

**T**HE bloody, protracted war between rival Scandinavian motorbike gangs — which has claimed six lives in the past two years — flared in Sweden yesterday when a bomb exploded in a clubhouse near Malmö used by Hell's Angels, injuring a baby and three people.

The attack just before dawn is the latest in Nordic battles for territory which echo the United States' motorcycle gang wars.

The blast wrecked the clubhouse and caused damage to buildings within a radius of several hundred yards.

"All the windows, which were boarded up, were blown out," said a police spokesman, Lars Hakansson. "Large sections of walls are down and tiles were blown off the roof."

None of the injured was connected with the Hell's Angels. Twenty families were evacuated from their homes.

Police described the explosion as a new twist in a war between the Angels and a rival bike gang, the Bandidos. In fights the gangs have used bombs, guns, knives, grenades and — on one occasion — anti-tank missiles.

The war parallels fights by "brother" gangs in the United States. The Bandidos, which is linked to a gang of the same name in Texas, is trying to challenge the underworld "authority" of the Hell's Angels.

In the bomb attack, the baby and three adults were hurt by flying glass and debris.

Three men, believed to be Hell's Angels, emerged dazed but unhurt from the clubhouse, in which it is believed they were sleeping.

The fighting began in 1994 when a Hell's Angel was shot dead in the southern Swedish port of Helsingborg.

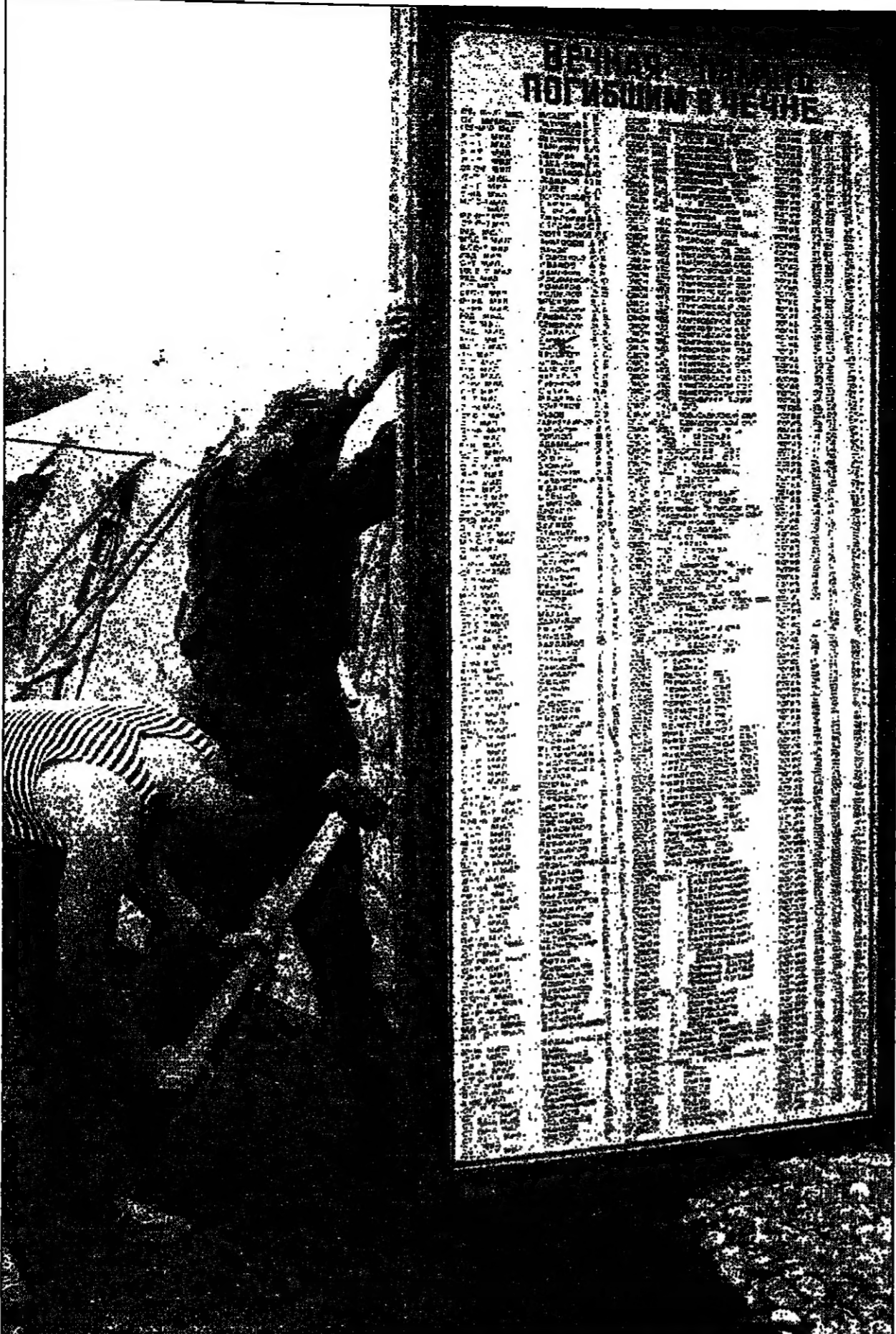
In March a Finnish leader of the Bandidos, Jarkko Kokko, was shot in Helsinki. He died of his wounds.

Nine days later a Danish Bandidos leader was killed and two companions wounded outside Copenhagen airport. In an almost simultaneous attack a Norwegian Bandido was wounded as he arrived at Oslo airport.

In July a Danish Bandido was shot in the head near the Norwegian city of Drammen.

Scandinavian politicians have called for a ban on the gangs, but a liberal tradition of freedom of association has so far ruled it out.

# President goes on the air while the voiceless act out their anger. DAVID HEARST in Moscow reports



Russian soldiers in Grozny erect a board with the names of interior ministry servicemen who died during the fighting in Chechnya. President Yeltsin has praised General Alexander Lebed for helping to stop the war. PHOTOGRAPH: YURI TUTOV

# Wily Yeltsin turns tables on Lebed

**B**ORIS YELTSIN brought new life to the hospital radio by broadcasting a six-minute message from his bedside, designed to show that he was still in charge.

"I said before the elections and repeat now — don't rush to change the portraits. The country has a president and an active president at that!" the familiar voice boomed in many homes throughout Russia.

As proof that the 65-year-old patient awaiting open heart surgery had not lost touch, Mr Yeltsin dealt deftly with a resignation threat from his security adviser, General Alexander Lebed. He turned the threat to his own advantage by ordering Gen Lebed back to work. He

pointed a picture of Gen Lebed as a squabbling prima donna who could not work with others.

He said in a later television address: "He needs to get down to business now, carry out the tasks he already has and make more effort to work with the prime minister and with the other services."

"You can't quarrel with everyone all the time. You can't settle issues that way. Our state apparatus must live in peace."

Gen Lebed apparently threatened to resign over the appointment of Yuri Baturin, Mr Yeltsin's former security adviser, to a post overseeing top military appointments: a post Gen Lebed was given in July when he joined the presidential team.

Mr Yeltsin made it more difficult for Gen Lebed to carry through his threat by supporting him on the Chechnya peace deal, about which he had been so heavily criticised in parliament.

The deal received a further boost when it was formally endorsed by the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, after talks with the leader of the separatists and the self-proclaimed president of Ichkeria (Chechnya), Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev.

Both leaders signed a declaration of principles, establishing a joint commission to set up new government structures and organise local elections.

Mr Chernomyrdin called the document a "big step in the right direction".

# Russians suffer in silence

**An emergency plan has been made for a mass evacuation from the Arctic**

**W**INTER is coming and for the first time in decades Russia is unprepared for it. Fuel and food are so low in the Arctic north that the ministry of emergency situations has plans for a mass evacuation.

The far eastern region of Primorski Krai is crippled by power cuts, because it too is unable to pay fuel bills. In June, he left his wife the following message: "Anichka, excuse me, if you can, but I am tired. Finally all my problems have ended. Take care of Nastya [their daughter]."

The Zil factory, which made the limousine of the Soviet elite, is like a ruined city. Production lines designed to build 200,000 lorries a year turned out just 5,000 in the first six months of this year.

Last week stray dogs roamed around the director's entrance, where the official picket should have been. The pickets had knocked off an hour early.

Only 20,000 of the factory's 70,000 workers are left, and of these 4,000 are working in its kindergarten.

shouts are drowned by the rush-hour traffic. No one even bothers to stop and ask them who they are.

People who cannot make their voice heard turn to desperate acts. Last week a worker walked up to the city administration building in Abakan, a large industrial centre in Siberia, and set himself alight. Mikhail Gerasimov was taken to hospital with 80 per cent burns, murmuring: "No work, no money, how to live."

In Kamchatka, Lieutenant Yevgeny Golubev, personal aide to the captain of a naval escort ship, shot himself. He had just been paid in June. He left his wife the following message: "Anichka, excuse me, if you can, but I am tired. Finally all my problems have ended. Take care of Nastya [their daughter]."

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tens, clinics and hostels. Most are unemployed, although they are still technically registered at the factory.

The chairman of the Zil trade union committee, Mikhail Alliluyev, tried unsuccessfully to organise a co-ordinated strike with other trade unions. "So this was what worker solidarity has come to," he said.

Zil is being rescued by the government, which has promised to buy its lorries and open credit lines to get production rolling again.

Mr Alliluyev is cautious about "throwing stones which don't reach their target".

Everyone knows the target is not the local management, but the government. "You in the West have laws and courts," he said. "Here you are not defended in any way. You can be killed. You can be trampled on."

"Besides if it were possible to organise a political strike, there would be a civil war. You know how all this happens in Russia. At first nothing happens and then when the problems comes to the extreme and there is an explosion in which everyone is beaten, whether they are responsible or not."

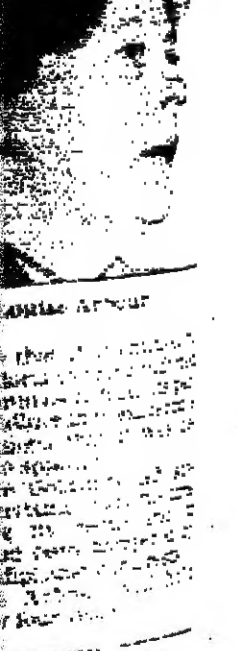
It was the fear of a *bunt* (uprising) that kept things so quiet on the streets.

# Down in Dublin

**'treaty**

# Prosecutor

**tribunal**



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Blair steers for office

But the Tories must avoid the rocks next week

BARRING any improbable last minute embarrassments over the Red Flag this morning, this has been Labour's most united and successful party conference of modern times. At its high point, Tony Blair made an enthusiastically received speech which skillfully reached out to the different wings of the party without sacrificing any of the principles which have made his leadership so effective in winning public support for Labour. Party leaders managed to broker a deal over the only issue - pensions - which had genuinely threatened to disrupt the week. There were few moments if any to disturb the party managers, and even those about which they were apprehensive - like Baroness Castle's appearance on Wednesday - helped in the end to cement the party rather than to pull it apart. The week has been marked by some very effective political interventions, of which yesterday's Dunblane presentation was especially powerful. And last night the conference voted to adopt Mr Blair's wide-ranging Road to the Manifesto document, the next stage in a consultative process which will now take in all party members before it is finally confirmed next month. Mr Blair will helicopter out of Blackpool this afternoon a deservedly happy man.

All in all, Blackpool has been just what Labour ordered. Mr Blair and his team have got their way over everything, mostly without a serious fight and in all cases without disturbing the surface calm. Mr Blair is now in total command of his party, but there is absolutely no doubt either that the party is consensually performing as one. It is overwhelmingly focused upon defeating the Conservatives at the coming election, and there is almost no pocket of resistance to the voluntary self-discipline which nowadays characterises the Labour Party in a way that, a decade ago, it distinguished the Con-

servatives. Even on issues which everyone knows divide the party in private, there has been undented unity in public. Deeply contentious and important questions like the European single currency, Scottish devolution and child benefit all came and went without significant or even any dissenting voices heard. Anyone who threatens to create a discord, like Baroness Turner last night, is summarily dumped overboard. Partly this reflects the party's own overwhelming wish to win, but it is also a tribute to the fact that Labour has now built itself the most formidable party machine in British politics. Those who imagine that divisions will re-emerge once the short-term goal has been reached are deluding themselves.

All of this has been achieved at a price. Labour is by no means fully prepared, either organisationally or culturally, for the immense transformation which government would bring. It has yet to find a way of conducting an intelligent, grown-up debate about serious issues without everything being treated as a loyalty test. But Labour's self-discipline is a reaction against the party's catastrophic experiences of the 1980s. Those events still cast a shadow. That is why this was the week that the party managers had feared. If it had gone wrong, the fallout would have dictated the whole pre-election agenda. It could even have tempted John Major to cut and run in a snap autumn election. That is not going to happen now. The only party that may stumble this autumn is the Conservative Party, and Bournemouth next week will be a much more dangerous political event than anything that has happened at Blackpool. British politics is approaching the general election with the government seemingly destined for opposition and the opposition, after a formidable week in the north, heading for government.

Middle East talks on a tinder

Mr Netanyahu should swap immaturity for statesmanship

A SUMMIT conference which concludes with one side (Israel) hailing it a success and the other side (the Palestinians) lamenting that it has failed is founded in ambiguity and may collapse very quickly as a result. It was followed yesterday by a comparatively quiet day on the West Bank, but this was a shaky lull with Hamas already threatening to take action today. On the positive side, the willingness of both leaders to go to Washington did indicate an awareness that the situation was whirling out of control. But if there is a sort of peace, it is the peace of grave disquiet.

In their Washington talks, Benjamin Netanyahu rejected all of Yasser Arafat's priority demands, from setting a date to withdraw Israeli forces out of Hebron to closing the infamous archaeological tunnel in East Jerusalem. It is a sign of Mr Arafat's weakness that he still gave the Israeli prime minister what he needed: a commitment to resume negotiations which implies that Palestinian anger will be kept under restraint. The optimistic view is that Mr Netanyahu has also taken on an implicit obligation to move on Hebron very soon, setting some kind of time-scale for withdrawal. But it is an assumption which Mr Arafat clearly did not feel entitled to claim.

Mr Arafat and Mr Netanyahu had managed to shake hands before leaving the White House but it was a very different mood from the famous handshake three years ago between Mr Arafat and Mr Rabin. The dominant image

now is that of the two leaders sitting in awkward silence while President Clinton, not much more at ease, conducted the end-of-summit press conference by himself. Mr Clinton begged the people of the Middle East to "give us a change to make this thing work in the days ahead" - a remarkable confession, on behalf of those who should be in charge, that they are close to losing their grip.

The situation on the ground draws less attention unless stones are being thrown or guns are fired. But it is grim to the point which makes a near-nockery of diplomatic discourse. In Hebron, 94,000 Arab residents remain under curfew - allowed just three hours out of their homes yesterday - while 450 Jewish settlers can move around town freely. Travel across the West Bank continues to be severely restricted, compounding the hardship already caused by the ban on entry of Palestinian workers into Israel. Israeli tanks are in position with open threats from their commanders to use them against renewed Palestinian violence - disproportionate force with a vengeance. One bright countervailing signal was the huge rally on Tuesday night organised by Peace Now in Tel Aviv, and the sober criticism widely voiced in the Israeli press against the wilful immaturity of Mr Netanyahu. Expectations must now be low: getting through to the resumption of talks (at a lower level) on Sunday will be an achievement. But something will have to give, or be given, very soon.

An inquiry in need of resources

Sir Gordon needs professional help if he is to move quickly

IT IS a rich irony that the first new victim of the Hamilton Affair should be from the Labour benches. The Opposition moved quickly to remove Baroness Turner from her role as Lords Spokesman on Employment once she publicly defended Ian Greer, on whose board she sits. Lady Turner seems to have been guilty of little more than naivety, but she has paid for it with her job. There is a stark contrast with John Major's continuum mouse-like silence on Neil Hamilton's already proveable guilt of lying to the Deputy Prime Minister.

Mr Major has at least confirmed his willingness to hand over all government documents to Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner. It is vital now that Sir Gordon moves with all speed, and that his Commons Privileges and Standards Committee urgently makes available to him all the resources he needs - including the support of the lawyers and accountants

who can help him interpret the vast documentation that is about to land on his desk. It would be a scandal if the course that Mr Hamilton has now cynically adopted should find itself unable to produce a report before the General Election. Yet time is short, there is a huge amount of documentation to sift through and many witnesses to see.

There is one other matter. One of the members of the committee which will eventually receive Sir Gordon's report is Doug Hoyle, the Labour MP for Warrington. Since it has now been disclosed that Mr Hoyle's 1987 election fund received a donation of £500 from Ian Greer Associates he will surely see that it would be inappropriate to sit in judgement on these matters. It would be better if he were to step down from the committee speedily - thereby drawing a further contrast between Labour's response and John Major's unwillingness to act over Mr Hamilton's lie.



Letters to the Editor

The fathers fight back

READING Sean French's article (Times of ordinary sadness, October 2), I was able to ignore the many references to Bob Geldof's application for "custody" of his children - a concept abolished by the 1989 Children Act.

However, I will not forgive the outrageous assertion that "the courts have a traditional presumption in favour of the mother". Just what is Mr French's authority for that wholly inaccurate statement? Does he not realise he is misinforming many vulnerable people who find themselves in the unfortunate situation of family breakdown?

There are many lawyers working in the field of family law - many of them members of the Solicitors Family Law Association - who are committed to the non-adversarial and sensitive approach to conflict resolution. It is important that people are aware of the availability of this facility. Nicola Ferryhough, Rowley Grove, Stafford.

French asserts that fathers seek to protect their "right to walk out on families", even though in his own case study Paula Yates walked out on Bob Geldof, and got custody of the kids to boot, an outcome few fathers could hope for. The real tragedy is that fathers like Geldof have to cling to misconduct allegations to have any chance of bringing up their children.

Given the chance, nobody suggests they do a worse job than their ex-wives, but the judiciary persists in protecting and perpetuating our stereotypes. That way mothers stay maternal and single mothers stay poor, the better to be scapegoated by Michael Howard. M C Pires, rue Marx Dormoy, 75018 Paris, France.

SEAN French dismisses the plight of responsible fathers denied fair access to their children on the grounds that other fathers behave less than responsibly. Why not take each case on its merits? Feminists fail to realise that their demands on men to give up their traditional economic privileges must be matched by equal willingness in women to sacrifice their traditional emotional privileges, including ones concerning custody of children. Peter Totman, Aston Road, Raynes Park, London SW20.

THERE may be many fathers who don't want equal rights to their children but there are many, including myself, who do, who are willing to look after their children but are denied the opportunity to do so (or in some cases even contact) by mothers.

To suggest as Mr French does, that fathers are somehow incapable of looking after their children is complete prejudice, which is unfortunately often upheld by the courts.

Mr French's stereotyping does not stop at fathers. His depiction of single mothers (sworn-out, tower blocks, etc) is equally insulting to the majority of single mothers who do not fit this image. Stephen Hall, Southampton Street, Brighton BN2.

SEAN French lambasts Bob Geldof's campaign for fathers' rights. Why doesn't he imagine the following scenario? Tomorrow his adulterous wife divorces him, is awarded the family home, and refuses to allow access to his children. Not a nice thought, but a grim reality for an increasing number of fathers today. Contact orders, though usually granted by the courts, are effectively unenforceable. Responsible fathers and innocent children are the true victims. Richard Gregory, Carthew Villas, London W6.

Why a decent pension policy will pay dividends in the future

BARBARA Castle and Peter Townsend (Castle declares war in pensions figures fight, October 1) continue proposing a pension reform which would cheat millions of pensioners. That has been the outcome of Serps and their campaign has been all about deceiving the poorest pensioners once again.

While it was understandable for Barbara Castle to introduce Serps in the 1970s, it has had its benefits halved by the Tories, only for its proposed budget to be halved yet again. Millions of pensioners signed up to Serps believing Barbara Castle's rhetoric that they would get generous pensions. They now know they have been sold short.

No Labour government can guarantee that a future Tory administration will not wreck a rebuilt Serps scheme as proposed yet again by Barbara Castle. That is why it is important to find a way that is less open to such brutal government action. Extending funded pensions offers the best chance, and a challenge for a future Labour government will be to make this provision universal. Frank Field MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

YOUR leader (October 1) looks at facts the wrong way round. The truth is the reverse: there will be no growth without fairness. Here is a case in point.

As one of this country's poorest pensioners, when my 15-year-old iron recently packed up, I could not afford to buy a new one. My daughter, who bought a new iron herself only six months ago, gave me her old one, the same model as my defunct one, but only 12 years old. Economic result: one new iron sold between two people, instead of one new iron each - therefore manufacturers' and distributors' income halved.

If the younger generation will not bludgeon government of whatever colour into fairness, they can start saving up their cardboard boxes for chests of drawers and storage units, cut up their card packets for writing paper, and their old copies of the Guardian for toilet paper. Felicity Crow, Spence Cottage, Middle Spring, Ruscombe, Stroud, Glos.

PERHAPS a Labour government will not only look at the mechanism for increasing state pensions, but also at the

base cost of the pensioners' shopping basket. The old came out very badly from being tied to the national average consumption.

The whole trend of the market economy is the reduction of prices where larger markets can be won. Thus the RPI is reduced as new products such as electronics achieve massive consumption. So, for example, the lower prices of camcorders or mobile phones actually reduce the state pension. Even in the pricing of services a similar process applies. Standing charges for utilities go up while greater consumption is rewarded by lower unit prices.

There is also a difference in purchasing patterns in services. As people become old they have to abandon DIY activities. They are forced to rely on contractors for home maintenance, decoration and repairs. Call-out charges are not cheap.

The expense of being old is compounded in widowhood. The old adage that two can live as cheaply as one is reversed. One must live as cheaply as two.

Joe Ball, 9 Broadlands Close, London N6 4AF.

I AM prepared to vote for any party which will do something to help my friend Tess. She and I are both over 60, but her income is about £56 a week while mine is about £108. Tess suffers from three big disadvantages:

• She isn't entitled to a full single person's pension. For the DSE, your working life is regarded as 44 years, and you need to have actually worked and paid stamps for almost the whole of this to be entitled to the full basic pension. Tess and I had both worked for less than the prescribed period, and she also had paid the old "married woman" low-rate stamps so that when we came to draw our pensions we found ourselves allocated less than £30 a week each.

• Tess is not a widow. She has been deserted by her husband, who pays her no maintenance. So the only state help she can get is to have her pension topped up by Income Support to about £56 a week. I am a widow, and receive the state widow's pension plus the widow's half of my late husband's occupational pension - a total of £108 a week.

I am sure that there must be many other pensioners with the same or similar problems. Cannot their position be eased somehow? Name and address supplied.

The last word

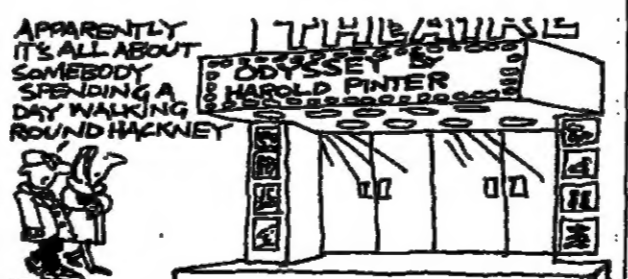
CONTINUING your quest for the worst in modern bollockspeak (Letters, October 3, 2, 1), what about the Sincere-o-Matic synthesiser that help keep the privatised utilities enquiry-proof and BT solvent? All our operators are busy right now. Your call will be answered in approximately... one... four... minutes. Please hold. Arthur Wardell, 7 Claremont Road, Boothtown, Halifax HX3 6NX.

ON a recent trip to southern Poland, our interpreter (who speaks most European languages fluently) told us that he had discovered what he regarded as the most precise word in any language: bollocks. He said he had found it most valuable in the university where he worked, as it was immediately understood, without translation, by workmates and students alike. Eric Lawson, 19 Grasmere Road, Marsh, Huddersfield HD1 4LH.

WHAT a shoddy headline you gave to my feature Leslie's obituary (Come on downmarket, September 30). You accused him of lack of judgment in his choice of material. I think your heading showed an extraordinary lack of taste. Liz Crowther, Popesgrove Mansions, Heath Road, Trivickham, Middlesex TW1.

THE nature lobby (Guardian September 27) should be cautious in asking for too many roads, hedgehogs and now other tunnels under motorways. Some years ago, when living near the motorway triangle between the M25 and M26, I noticed the area was devoid of squirrels, and some years later had the opportunity of re-introducing red squirrels, which are still, I believe, doing very well. Peter Abbott, Church Street, Darton, Barnsley S75.

Please include a full postal address, even an e-mailed letter, and a telephone number. We may edit letters; shorter ones are more likely to appear.



Pinter and betrayal: Act II

MICHAEL Billington's observations about Harold Pinter (Acts of betrayal, September 24) contain, in essence, nothing new. In my 1973 study of Pinter, I demonstrate that the dramatist drew upon his own life and experience, and transmogrified these facts into great drama and poetry.

Prior to the publication of my work, Pinter sent me a set of telegrams - still in my possession - asking me not to publish certain biographical details concerning his early writings, which he wished to suppress. He then changed his mind. Some of this material concerns brilliant essays written whilst he was a schoolboy at Hackney Downs School and one in particular deals with the young, 15-year-old Pinter referring to James Joyce, especially to Dubliners and Ulysses. Pinter

observes that "even though (Joyce) spent most of his life abroad, all his work was about Dublin, which was the one great influence of his life - a great Irish Catholic shadow that forever lay over him." In Pinter's case, it is still a great Hackney-London Jewish shadow that lays over him, compounded by subsequent experiences such as a traumatic divorce, betrayals, and coming to terms with establishment acceptance.

It is pleasing to know that all these years later Michael Billington has only rediscovered what was there before in print, but then, to quote Joan Bakewell, "we go on betraying, don't we? ... The irony is that the process never ends." (Prof) William Baker, Department of English, Northern Illinois University, De Kalb, Illinois 60115-3962, US.

Pro-life, when it's worth living

THE correspondents objecting to Prof Nicholas Wald's comparison of stroke prevention with pre-natal screening (Letters, October 1) have confused the issue by equating the interests of a potential human being with those of a living person. Once someone has been born, with or without a genetic defect, that person is entitled to all the care and support they need to live as full a life as possible. Malcolm Hurwitt, 51 Minster Avenue, Southall, Middx UB8 4EP.

hard to draw too strong a picture of this experience. After a successful operation at Harefield Heart Hospital, I am completely cured. Unlike your correspondents, one of whom accepts spina bifida and breast cancer as not being reasons for prophylactic abortion, I would have anyone doomed to the lifelong experience that I had to endure aborted. Such suffering should never be inflicted on anyone. Your correspondents fail to differentiate between making the best of a bad job and inflicting such horrible experiences on the unborn. (Dr) A Sandman, Sharpleshall Street, London NW1.

A Country Diary

NORTHUMBERLAND: Every morning at first light, Jim Martin, warden of Northumberland Wildlife Trust's nature reserve at Haurley, north of Druridge Bay, parols his 67-acre patch. He checks bird and animal species and the five hedges there (these have recently been vandalised). In June he was listening to what he at first thought was a sedge warbler but he noticed a distinctive harsh note in the call. "I recognised it as a reed warbler," he said. "Two weeks later I saw the bird carrying food in its beak so I knew it must be nesting nearby." Jim actually saw the insects in the bird's beak without the aid of binoculars. Weeks later he found the reed warbler's nest, a work of art built around three or four reed stems and by then abandoned. These nests are interesting because they are attached to young reeds and as these grow, the nest rises on its supports. This nest represents the most northerly breeding site of the species on record in the county. For the

second year in succession a little ringed plover has nested at the reserve and this summer raised three chicks. A gadwall, which superficially resembles a female mallard, nested here for the first time, hatched eleven chicks and fledged seven of them. I studied the blackboard in the Haurley visitor centre and counted an impressive tally of butterflies recorded. "This has been a great summer for butterflies," said Jim. "Hundreds of painted ladies, a migratory species from the continent and an unusual number of common blues."

It is encouraging to hear that there are ambitious plans for the open cast recovery land adjacent to Haurley soon to get underway. A hundred acres of flagstone roads (these are big ones like those on the Norfolk marshes), 60 acres of linked ponds with East Chevington burn and nearly 100 acres of woodland. The aim is to attract bittern, marsh harrier, bearded tit and, of course, more reed warblers. VERONICA HEATH



Diary

Matthew Norman

AMONG the more radical measures in his... Mr Tony Blair once again focused on the information superhighway...

SANE and rational Paul Johnson is on top form in the Spectator with a topical piece on Thomas Jefferson...

DISTURBING rumours reach me of a cooling between Dolly Draper and Oofy Wegg...

ALSO helpful in winning elections is affecting an interest in the local football team...

I AM captivated by a Daily Mail interview with Christine Hamilton...

HAVING become the oldest person to bungee jump a 102m canyon in Queenstown...

MEANWHILE, in neighbouring Australia, a teenage contraceptive thief has been shown mercy by the bench...



Danger: Parliament turning a deaf ear

Commentary Peter Preston

B EEN there, done that: not looking forward ecstatically to doing it again...

So, off with the old, on with the new. But what was the old really like?

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The Tory MP and the holiday in the Bahamas



Bel Littlejohn

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Pause, think again

Who should be in charge of a woman's fertility? Should the present authority be strengthened - or should it be aborted? Linda Grant wants to see more thought before more action

THIS week the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority told a woman that she could not use one of her late husband's frozen sperm to give birth to a posthumous child on the grounds that he was no longer in this world to give his written permission...

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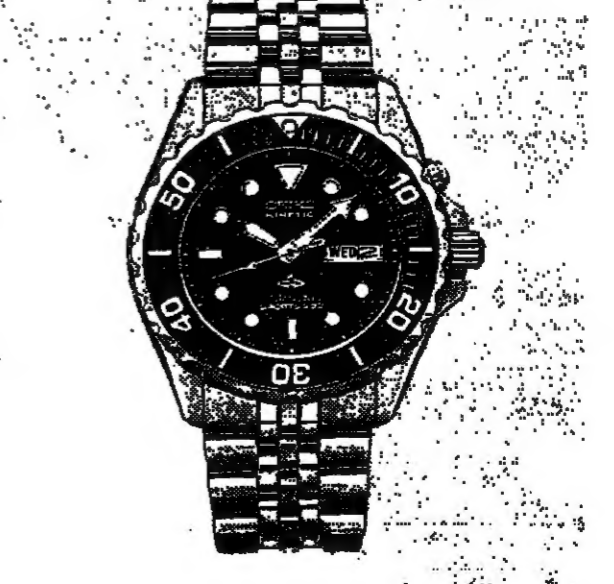
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Good-bye battery



Welcome to the future: Seiko Kinetic, the first quartz watch that turns your movement into power. Every move you make is converted into electrical impulses by a tiny built-in powerhouse...

Joonas Kokkonen

# Composer lit by northern light

**A** COMPOSITION, according to the Finnish composer Joonas Kokkonen, who has died aged 74, is a biological entity. "It begins from a mystery, from some unfathomable silence," he said. "It grows like a tree from a seed. The germ possesses a fantastic capacity for growth. Many people think that the growing power of the initial motive is its most important feature. However, the gist of the matter is the extent of its growth. This is the most important concern in creating a large form."

Kokkonen was Finland's most distinguished composer since Sibelius and shared with his countryman a genius for the organic development, from the simplest successions of intervals, of large and imposing musical structures.

Kokkonen was a friend of the greatest Finnish architect of the day, Alvar Aalto, who designed the composer's house in Järvenpää, just as Lars Sonck had done for Sibelius in the same town half a century before. This fusion of the complex with the simple, forward, expressed in a language whose emotive force could be readily appreciated by audiences unversed in contemporary trends, achieved for Kokkonen's music international renown with critics and public alike. This success was all the more remarkable since Kokkonen's music, if not as extreme in means as much that was being written at the time in Central Europe and in the United States, was often radical in expression. He was one of the first composers in Finland to adopt

elements of Schoenberg's 12-note method of composition although he never entirely abandoned tonality. Nor did he become an out-and-out serialist in the way that his pupil Paavo Heininen would do.

Kokkonen's rigorous self-criticism kept his output relatively small, amounting to some 50 compositions. These are of consistently high quality, covering the standard forms from opera to song, symphony to sonata. Many pieces from his mature period, which ran from the late 1950s to the mid-1970s (corresponding to the gestation period of his only opera, *The Last Temptations*), have established themselves in the repertoire. Particularly prominent are his orchestral works, including four symphonies remarkable for their total avoidance of Sibelian influence. From the outset, Kokkonen evolved a very individual variant of the symphony as a genre, with one or two fast movements framed by a pair of reflective, slower-paced spans. After his premiere in 1961 of his *First Symphony*, which was the previous year, Kokkonen was hailed as "a new comet in the Finnish musical sky". The hope was expressed that the "comet" would become a "fixed star", a sentiment fulfilled at least in part later that year with the receipt of a prize from the Wilbur Foundation (a second followed in 1978) and by the award of the Nordic Council's prestigious music prize in 1968 for his *Third Symphony* (1967). Other orchestral works include *Music for String Orchestra* (1957), the *Symphonic*

*Sketches* (1968) and a *Cello Concerto* (1968).

But the work that attracted the greatest critical and popular acclaim was his opera *The Last Temptations*, which stands as the most complete summation of Kokkonen's art. Based on events in the life of the early 19th-century revivalist demagogue Paavo Ruotsalainen, the opera is constructed on symphonic principles with a degree of internal cohesion rare in works for the theatre. The treatment of the plot — from a play by the composer's cousin Lauri — reinforced the method of construction, with the main action related in flashback from Ruotsalainen's deathbed. The Finnish National Opera toured the work with tremendous success in Europe and North America, before recording it in 1979, and what made audiences near with approval was not the music's subtlety or organisation, but its visceral impact, especially Paavo's great hymn which achieves a magnificent roof-raising apotheosis in the final scene.

**J** OONAS Kokkonen wrote a considerable body of instrumental music, from pieces for piano — on which he was a noted public performer in the 1960s — such as the *Sonatina* of 1953, to larger-scale works such as the *Sinfonia da camera* (1961-2) and the surrogate harpsichord concerto "Durch einen Spiegel" ("... through a glass darkly" ... 1976-7), which both require an ensemble of 12 string players. Prominent

among his purely chamber output are his three string quartets (1958-9; 1964-6; 1978), the last of which — like the Sonata for cello and piano of the same year — was based on thematic material from *The Last Temptations*.

Kokkonen's vocal music, aside from the opera, is scored primarily for chorus, the most important being the unaccompanied setting of the Mass (*Missa a cappella*, 1963), a Latin motet, *Laudatio Domini* (1966), and a 1981 choral-and-orchestral *Requiem* in memory of his second wife, Maija, which, as in Faure's *Requiem*, dispenses with the apocalyptic Dies Irae in favour of a brighter, more humanistic vision. Kokkonen's principal solo vocal work is his early song cycle, *The Hades of the Birds* (1968-9).

Kokkonen was born in Helsinki in Central Finland. He studied at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki from 1940 with Palmgren and Hannikainen, among others, though his attendance there was interrupted by military service (he attained the rank of sergeant) during the "Continuation War" with the Soviet Union in 1941. Resuming his education in 1945, he was awarded a diploma in piano in 1949 and was engaged by the Academy as a lecturer the following year, becoming professor of composition from 1959-63. Two of his pupils who have achieved international recognition in symphonic and operatic repertoire are Aulis Sallinen and Paavo Heininen.

He also undertook important administrative roles and achieved prominence as a writer on music, receiving an



Joonas Kokkonen ... Finland's most distinguished composer since Sibelius SUZE MAEDER

MA in musicology from Helsinki University in 1948. Probably his most important contribution in this field was the identification, supported by the composer's widow Aino, of the organ piece *Sursum Corda* (Funeral Music, 1931) as having been derived by

Sibelius from his then incomplete, and subsequently suppressed, *Eighth Symphony*. In his last years Kokkonen, like Sibelius, hinted at a final symphony not yet in complete form. But although some musical dictionaries list this *Fifth Symphony* as having been premiered in 1962, it was in fact, like the *Fourth Quartet*, never committed to paper.

**Guy Richards**

Joonas Kokkonen, composer, born November 13, 1921; died October 1, 1996

### Letters

**Dennis L. Bird writes:** For two years, I was adjutant to Wing Commander Clive Beadon (obituary September 16) when he was station commander at RAF Buzwell in Colchester. On Sunday, August 13 1961, he and I were in remote rural Germany on a car rally in his big Armstrong-Siddeley. Suddenly over the radio came the news that the East Germans had started building the Berlin Wall and were stopping all travellers leaving. Was this, perhaps, the prelude to a take-over of all Germany by the Russians? On that momentous day, no one knew. "We'll finish the rally first," said my CO in the true spirit of Francis Drake. And we did.

Among his many interests were Bentley cars (it was through the vintage Bentley club that he met his second wife), scuba-diving and chinchilla breeding. His German secretary spent a good deal of her time arranging deals for him with other breeders.

Clive Beadon was a memorable character: urbane, charming, very like Cecil Parker, the film actor. There are few of his kind left.

**F Hall writes:** Edward Pearce has been a former colonel wrong (obituary September 4). The Hola massacre occurred in Kenya in a Mau Mau detention camp, not in Malawi.

**Garath Bevan writes:** Paul Boateng must have very vague memories of Missions Impossible and is obviously not watching the re-runs on Channel 4, or he would know that the character Greg Morris (obituary September 3) played was Barney Collier, not Harry Collier.

**Roger Clements writes:** Our obituary of Professor Bill Mackenzie (August 20) did not mention his great personal kindness. As one of his minor protégés at Manchester University, I received nothing but immense kindness, help and courtesy from him. In more than 40 years, I've not forgotten it. He was a good chap.

Frida Knight

# Music in a good cause

**F** RIDA KNIGHT, who has died aged 85, was a musician, biographer and campaigner who remembered being shocked into "juvenile political awareness" by Mussolini's Blackshirts. Her schooling had been cut short at 14 when she became ill with Graves' disease, a rare heart condition. She went to Sicily for part of her recovery and from there travelled north through Italy, Switzerland and Germany, where later, in Frankfurt studying music, she witnessed the clashes between Nazis and Communists.

She had learned both piano and violin from the age of eight — the violin from a niece of Joachim — and later graduated from the Royal College of Music. But her mother, the first student at Newnham to receive a first class degree, introduced her to poverty and deprivation nearer home in Cambridge, which set her on her course in life, both socially and politically.

She worked first in Manchester, organising music for the unemployed, producing plays, operas and concerts, then as extension lecturer in music and theatre in Hull. There she started a Spanish relief committee and joined the Communist Party. In May 1937, she drove an ambulance from London to Murcia in Spain. In Madrid, she wrote and translated articles for the Republican press office, visited the front and spoke on national radio.

She returned to England as a fund-raiser for Basque refugee children, organising meetings and concerts for

them throughout the country. In July 1938 she was working with Spanish refugees in France and she returned to Paris at the end of that year. In June 1940, she was caught by the German invasion and imprisoned in Besançon for more than a year until she escaped via Marseille. She brought back a message for De Gaulle in a cigarette packet and then worked for a year with the Free French information department.

Her escape was the subject of her first book, an exciting story, told with characteristic modesty. Frida was at her best when writing about other people, notably in studies of those 18th-century radicals William Frend and Thomas Walker, and in her affectionate life of that other radical, Beethoven, a book that continually sends one back to the music. Her unpublished memoirs mention the famous people she knew, for fear, she said, of name-dropping. Indeed, she could have dropped plenty in her excellent account of Cambridge music from the Middle Ages to modern times. In all, including translations, she published 10 books, as well as contributing to newspapers and magazines.

**I** T WAS RARE to find her without company. All the Chinese and Russians who visited Cambridge seemed to find their way to her house; until lately, the front door was always kept open. She loved people even more than causes, but loved causes because she loved people. Nor could she live without expressing her sympathies in



Frida Knight ... expressing her sympathies in actions

actions. She was active in innumerable good works, most ardently in the peace movement. A visit to Cuba in 1952 set her upon yet another cause: the provision of medical supplies to the island. Despite her recent events, she retained the hope that had inspired socialists in the 1930s. Socialism was the only answer and she would quote in consolation her beloved William Morris: "Courage! For things wonderful, unthought of, have happened even in the short time while I have been alive."

In 1944 she married the microbiologist B C J Knight, later professor in Britain's first department of microbiology at Reading University. Frida spoke fondly of

her debt to her parents and her cultured — she would describe it as privileged — background, for her father was reader in French at Cambridge and dean of Trinity College.

She died at Frida once for which of her achievements she would like best to be remembered. She replied unhesitatingly: "By my children and grandchildren." Through her four children — her husband predeceased her — and in the hearts of people in many countries, she lives on.

**Timothy Rogers**

Frideswide Frances Emma Knight, musician and socialist, born November 11, 1910; died October 2, 1996

Kenneth Muir

# A Shakespearean devotion

**T** HE DAY before he died, at 88, Kenneth Muir sent me his newly published essay on Shakespeare and Lope de Vega — a gesture typical of a man who until the end retained his faculties, his prodigious memory and his belief in affirming friendships by exchange of opinions.

Recognised worldwide as one of his generation's most eminent Shakespeare scholars, Kenneth Muir once told a close friend that what he most would have liked to be was a dramatist. There was nothing marvellous about his academic career, which continued into an uncommonly active retirement as emeritus professor at the University of Liverpool. But the potential dramatist was there, and was possibly what united into one person the translator of Racine and the dramatist of the Spanish Golden Age; the editor of Shakespeare plays and Wyatt poems; the author, the superb lecturer and the politician.

Born in south London, son of a doctor who died when he was seven, Muir was educated at Epsom College and St Edmund Hall, Oxford, where he read English and acted in John Massfield's private theatre at Boar's Hill. His first post, in 1931, was a lectureship at York's St John's College of Education, not well suited to a poet and radical. He was sacked three times — and reinstated on the insistence of the then Archbishop of York, William Temple.

In 1937, newly married to Mary Ewen and co-author of *The Voyage to Hygia*, a pioneering study of Shakespeare as a poetic dramatist, Muir moved to an English literature lectureship at Leeds University. There he taught, edited, directed and acted Shakespeare; the memory still lingers of a King Lear with G Wilson Knight as Lear

and Kenneth Muir as Gloucester. He wrote learnedly for the Proceedings of the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society, and contributed hundreds of articles to Leeds Weekly Citizen under a vast number of pseudonyms — once finding five of his aliases all separately invited to the same civic event. He was also chair of the Leeds Fabian Society and a Labour councillor — a radical commitment that continued in Birkenhead. The move to Merseyside in 1951 coincided with publication of his New Arden edition of *Macbeth*, followed the next year by *King Lear*.

Kenneth Muir held Liverpool University's King Alfred Chair of English Literature for 23 years, and marked his retirement in 1974 by appearing as Prospero in a young colleague's production of *The Tempest*. He had also created, by example, a departmental ethos in which devotion to scholarship was taken for granted. Those of us who began our careers under his aegis lived in a quality culture, long before that term had been invented. But we never learned to make use of time the way he did, reading proofs of Shakespeare Survey

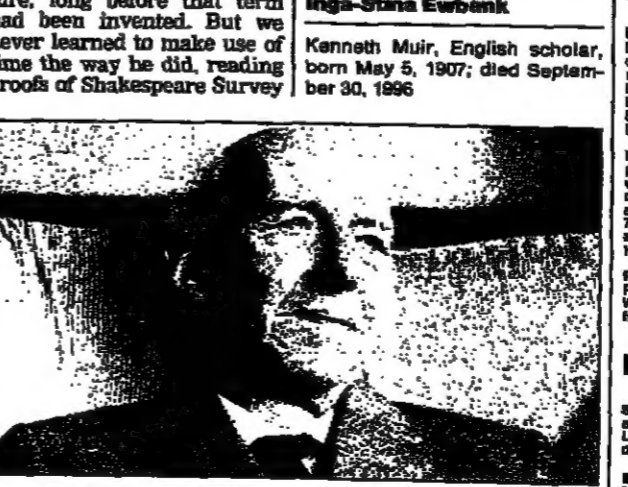
(which he edited) on the bus up Brownlow Hill and polishing off staff meetings in 10 minutes sharp.

As an author, Muir ranged widely. His critical work was informed by a now unfashionable liberal humanism which makes his books accessible outside specialist circles. His scholarship, like his personality, was fearless.

Naturally unostentatious, he was quietly proud of his achievement and not afraid to show his enjoyment of the honours it brought: the honorary degree from the University of Dijon, the fellowship of the British Academy, the presidency of the International Shakespeare Association. Kenneth Muir was reticent about personal relations and, while deeply bereft, faced stoically the death from leukaemia first of Mary his wife, then of Katherine his daughter. He leaves many friends who will be glad to know he made a good end and that his long life was literally rounded with a sleep.

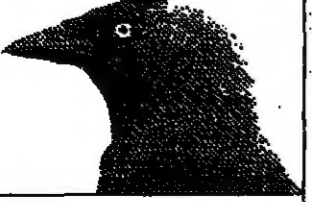
**Inga-Stina Ewbank**

Kenneth Muir, English scholar, born May 5, 1907; died September 30, 1996



Kenneth Muir ... quietly proud of his achievement

Jackdaw



**Virtuous times**

STATS Office for the Increase in Birth Rate, Berlin Dear Sir, As many men have died during the war, it is the responsibility of the living to care for the women and the girls in order to have a steady birth rate. You are thought to be very fit and we ask you kindly to accept this honourable duty. Because of this, your wife will not have the right to divorce you but will have to accept it as a necessary consequence of war. You are detailed to the 12th District of Berlin, comprising nine women and 17 girls. Should you feel unfit for this task, you must send the name

of a good replacement together with a certificate of incapacity signed by three doctors. Should you be able to take over another district too, you will become a breeding officer and also receive a breeding remuneration; you will also receive the birth medal first class with red ribbon. You are further exempted from all taxes and have the right to a pension. We will send you a list of the districts to be visited by you. You should start your fruitful work at once and report the results to this office after nine months. Patriotic greetings, The Personal Branch of the War Ministry.

**Desperate measures in war.** Apparently a copy of a letter found on a German POW in 1944. *British Journal of Sexual Medicine*

**New prizes**

**BIOLOGY:** Anders Berheim and Hognie Sandvik of the University of Bergen, Norway, for their "tasty and tasteful" report, "Effect of Ale, Garlic and Sour Cream on the Appetite of Leeches" (*British*

Medical Journal, vol 309).

**Middle:** James Johnsons of R J Reynolds, Joseph Taddeo of US Tobacco, Andrew Tisch of Lorillard, William Campbell of William Morris and the late Thomas S Sandler Jr, chairman of Brown and Williamson Tobacco, "for their unshakable discovery, as testified to the US Congress, that nicotine is not addictive. **Peace:** Jacques Chirac, President of France, for commemorating the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima with atomic tests in the Pacific. **Public Health:** Ellen Kleist of Nuuk, Greenland, and Harold Mol of Oslo, Norway, for their "cautious" medical report "Transmission of Gonorrhoea Through an Inflatable Doll" (*Genitourinary Medicine*, vol 68, no 4). **Chemistry:** George Goble of Purdue University, for his "blistering world record time for igniting a barbecue grill" — three seconds, using charcoal and liquid oxygen. **Literature:** The editors of the journal *The Social Text*, for eagerly publishing research that they could not understand, that the

author said was meaningless, and which claimed that reality did not exist. (The paper, which the author admitted was a hoax, was "Transgressing the Boundaries: Towards a Transformative Hermeneutics of Quantum Gravity", by Alan Sokel, Social Text, Spring/Summer 1986). **Economics:** Robert J Genco of the University of Buffalo, for his discovery that "financial strain is a risk indicator for desirative pericardial disease". **Results of the annual Ig Nobel prizes for those achievements in science that "cannot or should not be reproduced" were announced on the 3rd of October at Harvard University. Apparently, a group of genitive Nobel laureates have been lined up to present the awards prior to performing as insects in the world premiere of a "mini-opera starring two mezzosopranoes as cockroaches." New Scientist**

**Marketeers**

**CYBERGEN** "Techno literate and techno-hungry wired generation."

**CEREBRAL** "Pastimes such as reading and internet surfing.

**ECO-FAGAN** "Embracing holistic science, the rise of cult religions, alternative medicine, free festivals and eco-anarchy."

**A-GRINDER** "The blurring of the gender distinctions reflected in growing androgyny in fashion."

**GLAM-BANG** "Retro Seventies style with a post modern sense of irony."

**STREET SPORT** "The collision of sports, entertainment and street fashion, Nike meets pop promo."

**Marketing folk and their inbels.** These were developed by the brainbirds behind the new *Drink Thick Head*. They have decided that British Youth fit into six different categories and according to them, *Glam Bangs, Street Sports and A-Grinders* are most likely to buy their tippie. *Company*

**Sluts and tarts**

AS FOR Mary Lou Heller, she didn't have any children so there was no point speculating. But Tom said being a slut

didn't have anything to do with having children; it had to do with men, with sex, with spreading your legs for every Tom, Dick and Harry. The dictionary didn't mention Tom's meaning for the word slut. Our Oxford said slut was a sluttern or slovenly woman. But Tom said untidiness was not the point either. The point was you couldn't trust a slut. A slut did the dirty deed with anybody who asked her; a slut rolled in the hay with all the boys only she didn't get paid for it. A prostitute was a slut, but a slut wasn't a prostitute, because a slut wasn't in it for the money. A slut was worse than a prostitute. She was too stupid to make a living out of it. Tom said I shouldn't get on good terms with sluts. It was tricky enough that I was a Protestant whose best friend was a dogon, a mick i.e. a Catholic. Of course, he said, he had no worry about me in the slut department. I know you'll never be one, he said. You're just like Mother. You're not interested in sex. Still, he told me I had to be careful; I was too sympathetic. I should stay away from girls who had double-barrelled names like Mary Lou Heller and wore V-neck angora sweaters that smelt of Shalimar, a perfume Mom called whore's lure.

"Are sluts capable of ordinary living?" I asked. "Do they sometimes eat mashed potatoes instead of french fries and use a Brownie Hawkeye?" "Of course sluts act normal."

Tom said, "That's how they fool you. But if you could see what they do when they body goes to sleep," he added, "you would find out that sluts are every bit as disgusting as you thought."

**An extract from Susan Stoen's story Sluts, from Granta's new collection of writing.**

**Foxed again**

TOWN foxes are wreaking havoc at a top bowls club by stealing the jacks during games. The urban foxes, which live around Cheltenham Bowls Club, regularly sneak out and snatch the yellow jacks as players compete. The club is planning to surround the green with an electric fence to keep them out. **Further rising crime figures for the Government to worry over.** *Country Life*

**Jackdaw wants jewels.** E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-718 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

**Emily Sheffield**

### Birthdays

Prof Richard Batchelor, immunologist, 65; Lord (Peter) Blaker, former Conservative minister, 64; Jackie Collins, author, 63; Sir Terence Conran, Habitat designer, 68; Basil D'Oliveira, cricketer, 65; Lesley Glaister, novelist, 40; Eddie Gomez, jazz bassist, 52; Harry Greenwood, Conservative MP, 62; Charlton Heston, actor, 72; Sir John Hogg, banker, 64; Frank Kesteven, sports journalist, 55; John McCall, Labour MP, 58; Richard Martin, chairman, Brewers' Society, 64; Tony Meo, snooker champion, 37; Sir Hector Monro, Conservative MP, former government minister, 74; Yvonne Murray, athlete, 32; Gavin Fritchard-Gordon, racehorse trainer, 61; Giles Radice, author, MP, 56; Annekke Rice, television presenter, 38; John Rutherford, rugby footballer, 41; Susan Sarandon, actress, 50; Jim Sillars, former Scottish National MP, 59; Sir James Spicer, Conservative MP, 71; Ann Widdecombe MP, minister of state, Home Office, 48.

### Death Notices

**MATTHEWS, PETER ASH** Prof Emeritus, Dept of Electronic Engineering, University of Leeds, died 2nd June, suddenly and unexpectedly while working in Australia. Husband of Barbara, mother of Alan and Benjamin and brother of Dorothy. Memorial Service at Emmanuel Church, University of Leeds on 24th October at 11.

**MELSON, Shelia** on 30th September 1996, suddenly in Working Hospital, Bedfordshire. Beloved wife of the late Mr Peter Melson. Requiem in pace, Funeral service at Emmanuel Church, University of Leeds on 7th October at 10.30. Followed by cremation at St Andrew's Crematorium, Leeds. Inquiries to 11 D Tribe Ltd. 01937 224716.

**SAPPER, TONY.** On October 3rd, Tony Sappper, author and journalist, died at his home in Bedfordshire. He is too short for his own good.

### Marriages

**STYLLON AND FARMERY** To our High and Holy God, we give thanks for the marriage of our son, Andrew, and our daughter, Sarah, on 2nd July 1996. Love and joy of love on your wedding day. We are all well and God bless you all.

Let us place your announcement telephone 0171 718 4569, Fax 0171 718 4152.

Ken's group there

Regula

Combined

assets

channel ferry

Birmingham and Kerth

channel P&O's deal with

Management

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer  
Telephone: 0171-239-9610  
Fax: 0171-833-4456

# Finance Guardian

Spottiswoode squares up for stormy and personal Monopolies Commission battle with British Gas

## Regulators take tough line

Celia Weston  
Industrial Correspondent

**G**AS industry regulator Clare Spottiswoode lashed out at British Gas yesterday after the company propelled itself into its third Monopolies Commission enquiry since privatisation in 1986.

company would have to cut between 8,000 and 10,000 of TransCo's 20,000-strong workforce to meet the price cuts. The new charging regime for TransCo, which is to be demerged from British Gas next spring, would slash £400 million from annual cash flow, he claimed.



Spottiswoode... attack on Gas for personalising issue

Customers win £4 but workers warn of risks as Littlechild gets tough with Grid

**P**ROPOSALS to cut domestic electricity bills by £4 a year were unveiled yesterday by industry regulator Professor Stephen Littlechild, amid warnings that his plans for new price controls for the National Grid will cause extensive job-shedding and risk blackouts, writes Celia Weston.

Notebook

## Test of power at business court



Edited by Alex Brummer

**B**RITISH Gas and Clare Spottiswoode at Ofgas have been busting for a high profile punch-up at the Monopolies Commission: so referral was inevitable.

P&O Stena Line crossings, after initial costs savings are made the objective will be to raise passenger yields. It is a goal it probably shares with Eurotunnel, which Lord Sterling has inelegantly described as having been "dumped into the ferry market."



Kipper Williams

I've been writing in all morning for British Gas

holders, less resource to sustain the system, and job cuts. The regulator issued revised proposals in August for a five-year price control until 2002, with a 20 per cent one-off price reduction in the first year followed by price cuts of 2.5 percentage points below inflation in each of the next four years.

quality of the gas pipeline system or maintain services and service standards expected. Ms Spottiswoode said that Ofgas, responsible for drawing up the terms of reference for the MMC inquiry, expected to have it written by October 14. The 1993 inquiry cost British Gas, which must meet the costs, about £500,000.

was at the lenient end of expectations. The control, effective from next April, will cut Grid revenues by £1 billion. The Grid had hoped to force Prof Littlechild into greater concessions. In a terse statement, issued through the Stock Exchange, the company said it would respond by the October 30 deadline.

**'The combined operation will have assets in excess of £410 million and we will be competing with Eurotunnel with £12 billion. That is what this is about. It is a David and Goliath battle, if you like, but history has shown us that David can win. The enemy is the tunnel'**



Stormy seas... smaller operators may be swamped and cheap 'booze cruises' could disappear

**G**lobal sleaze  
The latest Damascus conversion of the World Bank occurred in London, with president James Wolfensohn calling for a crack-down against the global "cancer of corruption".

**P&O pruning**  
AFTER a great deal of prodding, Lord Sterling finally is coming to grips with P&O's difficulties.

**Olivetti sell-off to raise £520m**  
NICHOLAS BARNISTER Technology Editor  
OLIVETTI, the troubled Italian technology group, is to raise up to £520 million within two years through disposals and the flotation of its Lexikon office equipment business.

Lord Sterling

## Channel ferry marriage puts minnows in deep water

Lisa Buckingham and Keith Harper report on P&O's deal with Stena

**A**ROUT of smaller ferry operators was predicted by analysts yesterday after the merger by P&O and Stena of their cross-Channel businesses, the market's two largest.

The new P&O Stena line will have about 40 per cent of the market, a slightly smaller share than Eurotunnel, and expects to be able to reduce its yearly costs of £280 million by more than £75 million.

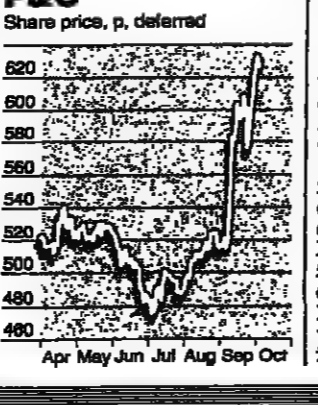
which case both the large operators could have looked round to mop up their smaller rivals. Now, analysts suggest, operators such as France's Sea France and Sea Containers, which runs hovercraft on the route, might reconsider whether to continue. This is unlikely to happen overnight.

Sea France, for instance, has its current losses underwritten by the French government and a decision to withdraw would be political, while Sally Line owns the port of Ramsgate. Lord Sterling said he thought it unlikely that regulatory authorities would accept another partner in the P&O Stena merger, adding that pooling capacity with Brittany Ferries was "another matter". But this would offer only

limited cost savings and analysts predicted that Lord Sterling would eventually press for a full merger.

Eurotunnel, the Channel Tunnel operator whose decision to slash fares precipitated yesterday's merger, welcomed the deal if it meant a reduction in ferry capacity.

The company, which is hammering out the final details of a £9 billion debt for equity swap with its banks, needs to be able to raise ticket prices if it is to have a hope of servicing its capital. Only if excess capacity on the Channel disappears, and ferries start to run full, will Eurotunnel be able to charge the "premium" fare it claims its fast service demands.



Shares in P&O shot up by another 18 1/2p to 643 1/2p as analysts applauded Lord Sterling's latest deal to extricate his group from its recent City doldrums.

Within the past few weeks, Lord Sterling has overhauled the property to shipping group's prospects by merging its container shipping operations with those of Holland's Nedlloyd group and acquiring total control of North Sea Ferries.

Both P&O and Stena, whose shares also rose strongly yesterday, said the new venture, which will operate 14 ships, should be "significantly cash generative".

## DBS Management postpones full listing as director resigns

Richard Miles

**D**BS MANAGEMENT, the UK's largest firm of independent financial advisers, shelved plans yesterday for a full listing on the London Stock Exchange, after its compliance director resigned at the board's request.

the Personal Investment Authority, the watchdog for personal finance sales, to investigate a series of allegations made by its compliance director, Kenneth Stead, against the board of the subsidiary DBS Financial Management.

In a statement issued yesterday morning, DBS said a review by its audit committee had led the board of directors to conclude that Mr Stead's "most serious allegation, regarding a compliance issue in 1992" had not been substantiated.

countermand any of our trading statements," he said. DBS is the managing agent for a network of 2,500 firms which specialise in providing financial advice to private investors. Its income is generated by deductions from its members' commission payments on the sale of insurance and pension policies.

tional investors account for a further 20 per cent and the balance rests with the public.

In 1993, DBS was fined £80,000 by the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association, a City regulator, after one of its members was found to have misled a number of mortgage-linked income plans to elderly investors.

At close of trading yesterday, shares in DBS had been marked down 56p to 425p.

would be raised through the flotation of Lexikon on the New York stock exchange towards the end of next year. The group is also planning to sell an 8 per cent stake in the Omnitel mobile phone company, which is regarded as Olivetti's most promising business.

Mr Colaninno ruled out any attempt to raise further funds from shareholders who injected 2,257 billion lire into the group earlier this year. When asked about future profits, he said: "I have not yet established the plan for 1997, which will be a year of transition... but 1998 will have a positive result."

TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS

Australia 1,9180	France 7.85	Italy 2,333	Singapore 2,1570
Austria 18.32	Germany 2,3270	Malta 0,5490	South Africa 6.85
Belgium 47.84	Greece 393.00	Netherlands 2,6130	Spain 196.00
Canada 2,0785	Hong Kong 11.80	New Zealand 2,1770	Sweden 1.20
Cyprus 0.7085	India 55.80	Norway 9.83	Switzerland 1.90
Denmark 6,9575	Ireland 0,9600	Portugal 236.00	Turkey 139,237
Finland 8.077	Israel 4.98	Saudi Arabia 5.83	USA 1,5295

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupees and Israeli sheqel).

The company, which is currently listed on the Alternative Investment Market, has asked

daily Sheffield

# Apples prove crunch for Asda

ALLAN Leighton, the new chief executive of Asda supermarkets (pictured right at the Southampton store), maintained the populist style of his predecessor, Archie Norman, yesterday by giving away apples in protest at European Union rules.

Asda's apples campaign follows its high-profile actions against the Net Book Agreement and on vitamin and medicine prices. The company complains that EU rules forbid the sale of loose apples less than 55mm (just over two inches) in diameter. It says many English Cox apples are smaller than that but are ideal for children.

Mr Leighton said: "If we cannot sell the apples we'll happily give them away to children." Nearly 14 tonnes of small Cox apples have been delivered to Asda stores. On Saturday the first 1,000 children at each store will be given one free.



PAUL MURPHY meets a remnant of old guard with little good to say for new regimen

# The word of a gentleman

It's a joke. The system's gone to ratchet. We're not better off while looking directly into each other's eyes.

The rhetorical question comes from someone qualified to pose it — a fiftysomething male who, in his 30-odd years working in the Square Mile, has moved from the trading colosseum to senior corporate finance management. He mourns the personal discipline which the physical Stock Exchange dealing floor demanded, and which was swept away with Big Bang.

In his time (which has not yet run out, quite), the man has overseen scores of fat-free deals which have meant life or death to dozens of stock market-listed companies, employing thousands of people. He has personally supervised the stock market flotation of maybe 50 firms. Or is it 80? He would have to sit down for a period to work it out. And yet this man would never stand up in public and criticise the London stock market.

It has been and remains his lifeblood. In the City of London, before or after Big Bang, no one speaks out of turn.

"It's a shame and it's all a sham. The public got shafted at Big Bang. Everything was supposed to make it cheaper and safer for the small investor, the private investor. But it didn't happen; just the institutions benefited."

This broker/dealer-cum-City-worshiper is referring specifically to one of the key reforms which Big Bang brought to the City a decade ago: the abolition of minimum commissions.

"In truth the old system actually subsidised the individual who fancied a punt on a stock," he says. "For his 15 quid he would get the best in-



**BIG BANG 10 years on**

vestment advice his broker could offer. And if it wasn't really economical for the broker to talk to this particular client, it didn't matter because he would make his money up with the institutions. There was a process of redistribution going on, if you like, and it worked."

His words are backed up by statistics, which show that despite all the 1990s hyperbole of the share-owning property-owning democracy, the public is more leery of holding a stock portfolio than ever.

It brings him to his pet gripe — unnecessary costs. "I could witter on about transparency and dual capacity [where big investment banks buy and sell shares as well as advising their clients what should be bought and sold] and how any sophisticated user of the market knows the system doesn't work [fund managers distrust the system of analysts recommending

stocks, brokers selling the story and market makers transacting the deal — all at a one-stop shop] but the bureaucracy which we have inherited on the back of Big Bang is criminal."

He counts up the regulators, the various City watchdogs and market authorities, that his firm, and he himself, are responsible to and he is close to hitting 10 fingers without drawing breath.

"The regulators want to box us in like some bit of dangerous machinery, rather than accepting that we are a creative force which helps this country — and many other countries — tick. And the press does not help, peering the regulators up."

The costs come from City firms having to comply with the ever-expanding City rulebooks, the lawyers who swamp every deal, "the joke disclaimers attached to every sentence which defy grammar and defy common sense."

He says: "It is dreadful stuff. I cannot explain to you the naivety of some of the people I have had to deal with at the Stock Exchange, at the Securities and Futures Authority, and at other regulators."

"The world you and I live in is very different to the world the authorities live in. I do not mind the Quotations Department [the Stock Exchange body which supervises fully-listed deals] because you are dealing on a level, well-trod field. And the Takeover Panel are best of all. But is it any coincidence that those two bodies pre-dated Big Bang?"

"So much of what the regulators piss about with now was solved internally in the past. There was no gratuitous waste of public money. Certain behaviour was unacceptable, and that was it. Some



Exchange... not waving but closing PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN DENISEY

# Under starter's orders

THE financial markets look set for their biggest shake-up since the 1986 "Big Bang" after the Stock Exchange yesterday announced plans to go ahead with order-driven trading after more than nine months of consultation with brokers across the City.

The decision was taken despite City concern over the details of stamp duty tax exemption for dealings in larger trades which has yet to be finalised by the Treasury. An announcement is expected over the next two weeks.

But chief executive Gavin Casey insisted that tax uncertainties would not affect the running of the system which will use the electronic trading in FTSE-100 stocks, whereby deals are posted on electronic bulletin boards. This will replace the current system of trading in which market makers post prices at which they are prepared to buy or sell shares.

Mr Casey declined to put a firm date on the start-up of the system which will match the City with share trading systems in most markets around the world and make London much more competitive. The current market-making system will continue to be used for London-traded shares outside the FTSE-100 index.

Within the new system, there will be provision for dealers to carry out big "block deals" without being hampered by the immediate obligation to make the transaction public.

The move ends a turbulent period for the Exchange which earlier this year saw the dismissal of chief executive Michael Lawrence.

people had a seat reserved for them on the 23rd floor [of the Stock Exchange tower]. A word in your shell-like, and it was sorted.

"Now they are just trying to make a federal case out of everything that happens, and yet the major scams — they never get hold of them."

For this financier, the market rogues have been always there and will never be exorcised, and he firmly believes that it is pointless trying.

"We are no better off," he insists, "Things were changing in any case. Big Bang simply crystallised it all."

# Financial services set to axe more jobs

MORE jobs are set to join the thousands already lost in financial services as life insurers, insurance companies and building societies struggle to stay profitable, a survey shows today.

During the past three months, employment across the financial services industry has dropped at its fastest rate since December. Only securities traders, fund managers and finance houses took on staff during the third quarter of 1996, and employment generally is expected to fall more slowly during the next three months.

The survey, by the CBI and accountants Coopers & Lybrand, shows that optimism among financial services firms rose sharply for the third quarter running. However, the recessionary affects continue to linger, with business — although increasing — still below normal.

Sudhir Jankar, of the CBI, said: "This recovery seems to be from a low base... but the bounce-back in profits is becoming firmly established as firms continue to control costs by cutting jobs."

# News in brief

# BT pre-empts OfTel action

BT yesterday withdrew the threat of formal action against British Telecom after the group modified prices for ISDN2, its high speed digital service for residential customers and small businesses. OfTel's director general, Don Cruickshank, said the new prices removed anti-competitive elements and included worthwhile price cuts.

# 3,000 jobs at Bolton's leisure

MORE than 3,000 jobs could be created at a £150 million leisure and sports complex in Bolton, Lancashire. The Middlebrook Development at Horwich will include a 25,000-seat stadium for Bolton Wanderers FC, a sports village complex and retail and leisure parks.

# Sony turns to veteran

VETERAN Hollywood executive Jim Calley yesterday emerged as the great white hope for Sony's troubled film studio, which is trying to replace Alan Levine who resigned as president. The Japanese conglomerate is negotiating with Mr Calley, president of MGM's United Artists unit, for a "senior position".

Should he take Mr Levine's job, Mr Calley has to restore morale at a studio buffeted by an exodus of executives and box office flop, such as The Cable Guy, for which Jim Carrey received \$20 million (£13.3 million).

# Clarke frets away at the 'group hug'

Richard Thomas in Washington is worried about the Chancellor

ONE finance minister attending the endless round of meetings of the G7, G10, World Bank and IMF this week barked at his officials: "Why can't I have speaking notes as good as those Kenneth Clarke gets?"

When the chastised advisers turned up at the British delegation's offices for some hints, a mandarin explained: "We'd be happy to help, but the thing is he never reads his speaking notes."

This is quintessential Clarke — a broad-brush operator who learns what he needs to get his way, and nothing more. Ask about IMF structural adjustment programmes and his eyes begin to glaze over.

But the Chancellor loves cajoling others to his point of view and has become a minor hero of the non-governmental organisations after pushing through the third-world debt plan.

Unfortunately, helping the world's poor does not win brownie points with his Tory backbench enemies. Mr Clarke has been forced to give dead-of-night interviews about tax and monetary union to the BBC's Today pro-

gramme, ruining his plans to hear the Charlie Byrd trio at his favourite Washington jazz club, Blues Alley.

Still, there has been a different kind of therapy for Mr Clarke. Holding a nation's purse strings is a lonely task. Spending ministers hate you for refusing to fund their pet scheme; everyone else hates you for not cutting taxes more. So when the West's finance ministers get together, it is in part a mutual affirmation session, a group hug for fiscal consolidators.

But even as he enjoys a few drinks on the embassy terrace, there are a couple of warning signs from the Chancellor that all is not well.

FIRST, it is an old truth that when politicians start to see their international work as more important than domestic politics, the game will soon be up. Mr Clarke is not there yet, but he already sees a contrast between the potential for effecting change on a global scale and the pettiness of British politics.

Even more disturbing is the Chancellor's constant fretting about his treatment by right-wing commentators, who think his pro-European credentials and refusal to dole out tax cuts will ensure victory for Tony Blair. When a thick-skinned Tory Chancellor complains so loudly and often about the Tory press, there is clearly trouble ahead.

# Virgin seeks to build air network in Africa

RICHARD Branson wants to forge a low-cost pan-African air network to link with his new Virgin airline route to South Africa.

Speaking after the inaugural flight of Virgin Atlantic's service between London and Johannesburg, he said he now wanted to buy Sun Air, the South African state-owned airline, and saw it as the base for a continent-wide network on the model of his new Virgin Express short-haul airline in Europe.

Mr Branson said he was interested in Sun Air if the South African government's plans to privatise the airline went ahead in March. "It depends what the price is but yes, we would like to look at buying Sun Air," he told a news conference. "We get on well with the people who run it... and I think it can be developed as a force in Africa."

Last month Virgin announced a new code-sharing pact with Sun Air, which currently flies between Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town using a fleet of two Boeing 727s and five McDonnell Douglas DC9s.

A spokesman said that Virgin would be speaking to South Africa's Transport Minister, Mac Maharaj, in more detail about the plan. Virgin believes Sun Air currently makes a profit of about \$4 million a year.

# Littlewoods 'not to float'

JAMES Ross, the new chairman of the Littlewoods retail and betting group, yesterday dismissed speculation that the family-owned business was heading for the stock market.

Announcing substantially lower profits as the group broke new ground by publishing half-year results for the first time, Mr Ross said: "We are trying to market the company to all our stakeholders, not just shareholders. This is not in preparation for becoming a quoted company. Flotation is not on the agenda — indefinitely."

Last year the dispersed Moores family shareholders rejected his approaches and set up a new shareholder council. Mr Ross replaced Leonard van Geest.

Just four months into the job, Mr Ross claimed Littlewoods had enormous potential which had not been realised in the recent past.

"It has underperformed for the best part of a decade," he said. "But the group has some strong brand names and we are taking radical action to improve performance."

He warned that some of the

group's businesses might be sold or merged as the result of a strategic review.

Yesterday's figures showed some improvement in retail sales and a recovery in profits at the pools operation despite turnover continuing to be hit by the National Lottery. Mr Ross said the new Index Extra home shopping operation had been extremely successful.

"The result was higher operating profits for the half-year to June, up from \$5 million to \$14 million, but an additional exceptional profit last year meant the pretax result was \$4 million down at \$12.5 million."

# Clothing retailers counter sweatshop claims

TWO prominent clothing retailers yesterday hit back at claims of sweatshop conditions in their British factories by detailing checks they make to ensure fair practice.

C&A said it had called its inspectors in to two suppliers in Birmingham, and had warned them about safety risks such as locked fire doors and overcrowded factories.

It rejected claims that some workers were paid less than £2 an hour.

Marks & Spencer, Britain's biggest clothing chain, said it was "confident but not complacent" that its suppliers met high

standards. But the company is reviewing the code of conduct suppliers are required to sign.

Peter Booth, national textiles officer for the Transport and General Workers' Union, said it was a mistake to focus solely on developing countries when dealing with sweatshop conditions.

"We have always said it is a worldwide problem, and that applies even to child labour. The need for codes of conduct, with independent monitoring, is as great in the UK as it is in the Philippines or Sri Lanka," he said.

Retailers have come under increasing pressure from campaigners such as Oxfam and Christian Aid to

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**County P... in £1m 0...**

Advertisement for County P... with a large amount of small, illegible text.

Racing

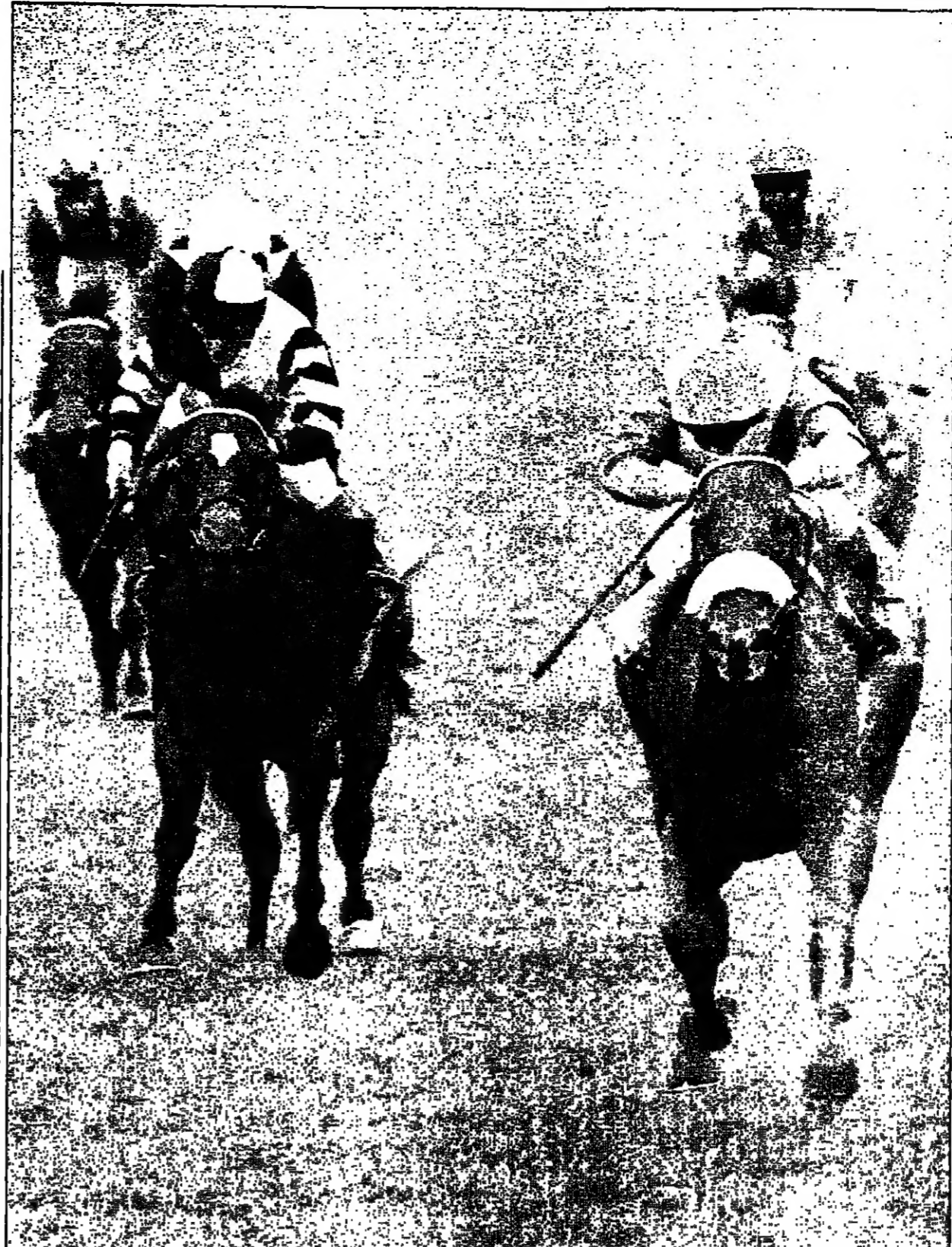
Bounty pays out on £1m outlay

Chris Hawkins

FRANKIE DETTORI, so often the villain in the Middle Park Stakes at Newmarket, yesterday's Bahamian Bounty...

Maktoum Al Maktoum, who purchased the colt from the previous owners, the Lucayan Stud, a couple of days ago for \$1 million...

morning work-out. "He was much brighter than at the weekend and will run in the Arc provided there is no adverse reaction to his work..."



Park drive... Frankie Dettori powers home on Bahamian Bounty in the Middle Park Stakes

Grape looks form pick

Ron Cox

GRAPEHOT, one of 21 two-year-olds left in next month's Dewhurst Stakes at the latest forfeit stage...

Both races are run over seven furlongs, a distance which looks the minimum requirement for Grapehot...

Moved up a place on the disqualification of Salm, Luca Cumani's colt looks the form choice here both on his Goodwood run and a previous defeat of the useful Bahamian Bounty over the July Course...

He looks sure to go well and there is plenty of improvement in last week's easy Goodwood winner Sachchara Pad...

The Dewhurst acceptors provide a strong pointer to the chance of Wind Cheetah (1.20) at Lingfield, Michael Stoute's well-regarded colt is still in the Group One feature...

Willie Carson has been released from hospital less than a fortnight after his frightening accident at Newbury where he was kicked by his intended mount Meshed...

Dettori to ride in Hong Kong

FRANKIE DETTORI has been offered a contract to ride in Hong Kong this winter. Four years ago his application to ride there was turned down soon after he received a police caution for possession of cocaine...

the denial of his 1992 application. "They never gave a reason why they turned me down. They didn't have to..."

He worked over a mile with Shaamit and Missie last Saturday and finished third, which was a relief, says the trainer, Missie is now a favourite for tomorrow's Cambridge and Shaamit a 10-1 chance for the Arc...

Newmarket with guide to recent form

Table of racing results and form guides for Newmarket, including race numbers, names, and outcomes.

Lingfield runners and riders

Table of racing results and form guides for Lingfield, including race numbers, names, and outcomes.

Hexham (N.H.)

Table of racing results and form guides for Hexham (N.H.), including race numbers, names, and outcomes.

Results

Table of racing results for various tracks, including race numbers, names, and outcomes.

Channel 4

Table of Channel 4 racing results, including race numbers, names, and outcomes.

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NEWMARKET

Table of racing results for Newmarket, including race numbers, names, and outcomes.

MARKET RASEN

Table of racing results for Market Rasen, including race numbers, names, and outcomes.

RACELINE logo and contact information for Newmarket, Lingfield, and Hexham.

Soccer

House of Orange in disrepair and divided against itself

Martin Thorpe in Cardiff says Holland are ripe for defeat given their severe injury crisis

IF PEOPLE were surprised by England's victory over Holland in June, then watch out this weekend: Britain could be celebrating a double over the Dutch.

To compound Holland's predicament, the defender Reijzger was hurt in a car crash last weekend and has his neck in a collar. Others missing through injury include De Kock, the PSV Eindhoven defender Stam and the new midfielder, Gastel of Feyenoord.

The Dutch medical staff are also working overtime to try to get Bergkamp fit, despite the fact that he has not played in Arsenal's last four games because of a hamstring problem.

Wales call-up for striker Blake as Gould puts trust in trauma

NATHAN BLAKE, whose nine league goals have been instrumental in putting Bolton on top of the First Division, earned a call-up to the Wales squad yesterday when Bobby Gould named his provisional team to face Holland in Cardiff.

The Birmingham winger Andy Legg on stand-by. Though the Wales manager has had his manpower problems, he is hoping that the traumatic mental scars left by Euro 96 will dog his opposite number, Guss Hiddink.

Ajax's black-and-white problem is mirrored in the disenchantment felt among the same players in Holland's dressing room when they complained during Euro 96 of not being consulted in team meetings.

Brown calls up striking pair

DOUGIE FREEDMAN and John McGinlay were called into Scotland's squad by Craig Brown for the World Cup matches against Latvia in Riga tomorrow evening and against Estonia on Wednesday.

Dodds, 27, is the latest to benefit from the manager's willingness to introduce older, experienced players to the international game at a stage in their careers when they might have thought the opportunity had passed.

Under Brown a number of players, including Colin Calderwood, Colin Hendry, Duncan Shearer, Tosh McKinlay and McGinlay, have been capped for the first time in their late twenties.

Robins eyed by Canaries

THE Leicester City striker Mark Robins, unhappy at not being able to win a first-team place at Filbert Street, may soon be on his way back to his former club Norwich City.

Robins, who earned fame as a teenage goalscorer with Manchester United, moved to Leicester from Carrow Road for £1 million just under two years ago. But the 26-year-old has been forced into the background after the arrival of Steve Claridge and Ian Marshall.

Meanwhile Darren Ferguson, the Wolves midfielder sent off in injury time of the First Division match at Bolton after hitting out at Bolton Wanderers' Danish midfielder player Michael Johansen, has decided not to appeal against the dismissal.



Head for business... David Platt in training with the England squad this week

Platt eager to step up

David Lacey on a former England captain eyeing a 63rd cap and managerial prospects

THE Vicar of Bray is all well and for the moment pursuing his profession just a few miles down the road from the churchyard that inspired Gray's Elegy. Except that now his reverence answers to the name of David Platt.

In the matter of serving numerous and contrasting masters, few footballers can have shared Platt's experience. Having collected 62 England caps under three national managers/coaches - Bobby Robson, Graham Taylor and Terry Venables - he is now hoping to win his 63rd from a fourth, Glenn Hoddle.

He does not believe Wenger will be in too much haste to change the way things are at Highbury. "I'm sure he will bring his own methods in," Platt said yesterday, "but I'm also sure he's intelligent enough to want to open players' minds first so they can accept more radical changes later."

He believes that, though the influx of overseas players can only broaden the outlook of the English game, it is important that more foreign coaches come as well. "If people who want to go into management learn things off Arsenal Wenger and eventually pass them on, that can only be good for our game," he said.

Two English clubs and games in July in expanded European Cup

UEFA confirmed last night that England will have two clubs in next season's European Cup. The move to expand the Champions League from 16 to 24 teams was formally accepted by the Uefa executive committee at a meeting in Antwerp, Belgium.

The Continent's eight strongest nations - England, Italy, France, Spain, Germany, Portugal, Holland and Belgium - will all have a second team in the competition.

Under the new format, the defending champions and the winners of Europe's eight strongest leagues will receive automatic berths into a Champions League consisting of 24 teams in six groups. But the expanded format means that a number of matches must be played during the summer, with a preliminary round involving champions from 32 countries to be played in July.

This week, before he joined an England senior squad for the first time, the young centre-back signed a contract which will keep him on Merseyside until at least the year 2000.

Advertisement for Men's Health magazine. It features a black and white photo of a man's face and the text 'ON SALE NOW' and 'WINNERS'.

Golf

Pained Woosie set for surgery

Michael Britton in Berlin

IAN WOOSNAM has been blighted by back trouble for most of his career. It has now reached the stage where he is talking openly of surgery to rid himself of the spondylitis that makes hitting balls and walking a course such a painful experience.

Woosnam was able to play only 16 tournaments in Europe last season and slid to 65th in the rankings, his lowest placing for 15 years. This year he has managed 19 and won four times after a winter exercise programme strengthened his back muscles and added flexibility.



Woosnam... sorely sub-par

Results

Soccer: POINTS LEAGUE: First Division Port Vale 1, Wolverhampton 0. Second Division: Luton 1, Walsley 0.

Baseball

PLAYOFF GAMES: National League Atlanta 2, Los Angeles 1. American League New York 2, Texas 1.

Cricket

INTERNATIONAL: ONE-DAY TOURNAMENT (Melbourn) South Africa 306-5 (150 overs) vs. Kenya 54 (11 overs).

Darts

WORLD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP (Salisbury): Group 1: England 5-1, Scotland 4-2.

Equestrianism

THE YEAR SHOW (Wentworth): Individual: Phillipa Thomas (GB) 23.12.

Fixtures

SOCCER: EUROPEAN U-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: England vs. Scotland (10.10).

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page. It features the text 'Twickenham clubs in peace for' and 'Backs the club as Mr S'. There are also some smaller text elements and a logo for 'WASPS RUGBY C'.

Rugby Union

Twickenham and clubs inch towards peace formula

Robert Armstrong

THE threatened break-away by England's leading clubs from the Rugby Football Union...

Fears that several English clubs would not be able to honour players' contracts and sustain the professional game...

Also, it is understood that Twickenham has made a significant increase on the £5 million earmarked for the clubs...

Two separate offers for British TV rights to the European Cup, one from Sky...

Roger Pickering, the Heineken European Cup director, also confirmed that the tournament's board of management...

Depending on the outcome of negotiations with TV, the English clubs could look forward to annual revenue of between £7 million and £10 million...

A Twickenham statement yesterday said: "The RFU has made contact with English Professional Rugby Union Clubs in order to start negotiations to settle the dispute."

Last night an Epruc statement said: "The clubs are pleased that, for the first time, the RFU has publicly recognised the need for it to change and adapt in order to accommodate the needs of the modern professional game."

Meanwhile, the England manager Jack Rowell has agreed to return to play for the British assistant coach Gary Hetherington appeared on Fijian television and insisted that even if Super League's comprehensive legal defeat of February was upheld by the court...

In contrast, the Welsh Rugby Union has braced itself for a fresh outbreak of hostilities at a meeting with top Welsh clubs in Cardiff tonight. The umbrella company for the clubs, Welsh First Division Rugby Limited, has received from BSkyB an offer for television rights to the Heineken European Cup in Wales...

The practical problems involved in a mass breakaway convinced many Cotswold league clubs that they stood to lose out at home and abroad because of the refusal of unions in other countries to deal with administrative bodies other than the RFU and the International Board.

The Leicester pair Dean Richards (48 caps) and Rory Underwood (85 caps), and Bath's Victor Uboegbu, Jon Calldale, Graham Dawe and Andy Robinson, remain in the cold.

Gibbs the crash-ball is back as Mr Soft Hands

David Plummer on the Welsh centre who went North as a barnstormer but will return tomorrow against Italy as a class act

SCOTT GIBBS made a try-scoring return to rugby union last month, easing his way through Swansea's victory with swiftness and assurance that it did not seem possible he had been away from the game for nearly three years...

ing me about by playing me outside centre and left and right, but I had found my true place with the Lions in New Zealand in 1988 and that was as an inside centre.

Davies. "I would never turn down the chance to play for Wales, but I know I am not ready yet," said Gibbs, who won the last of his 20 caps against Canada at the end of 1988.

"It is just that I knew it was not a case of everything being right. People were saying it was as if I had never been away, but it felt strange and still does. The two games are completely different and I hope they never merge. They should be able to co-exist because they do not offer spectators the same thing."

Gibbs is as direct of the field as he is on it. When he was chosen in the Wales squad last month he declared that he wanted to be considered only as an inside centre.

"I learned a tremendous amount from him that summer and he made me a much better player. To tour with the Lions is still the pinnacle of a rugby player's career and I will be going all out for a place in the squad."

Equestrianism

Philippaerts leads off for Belgian raiders

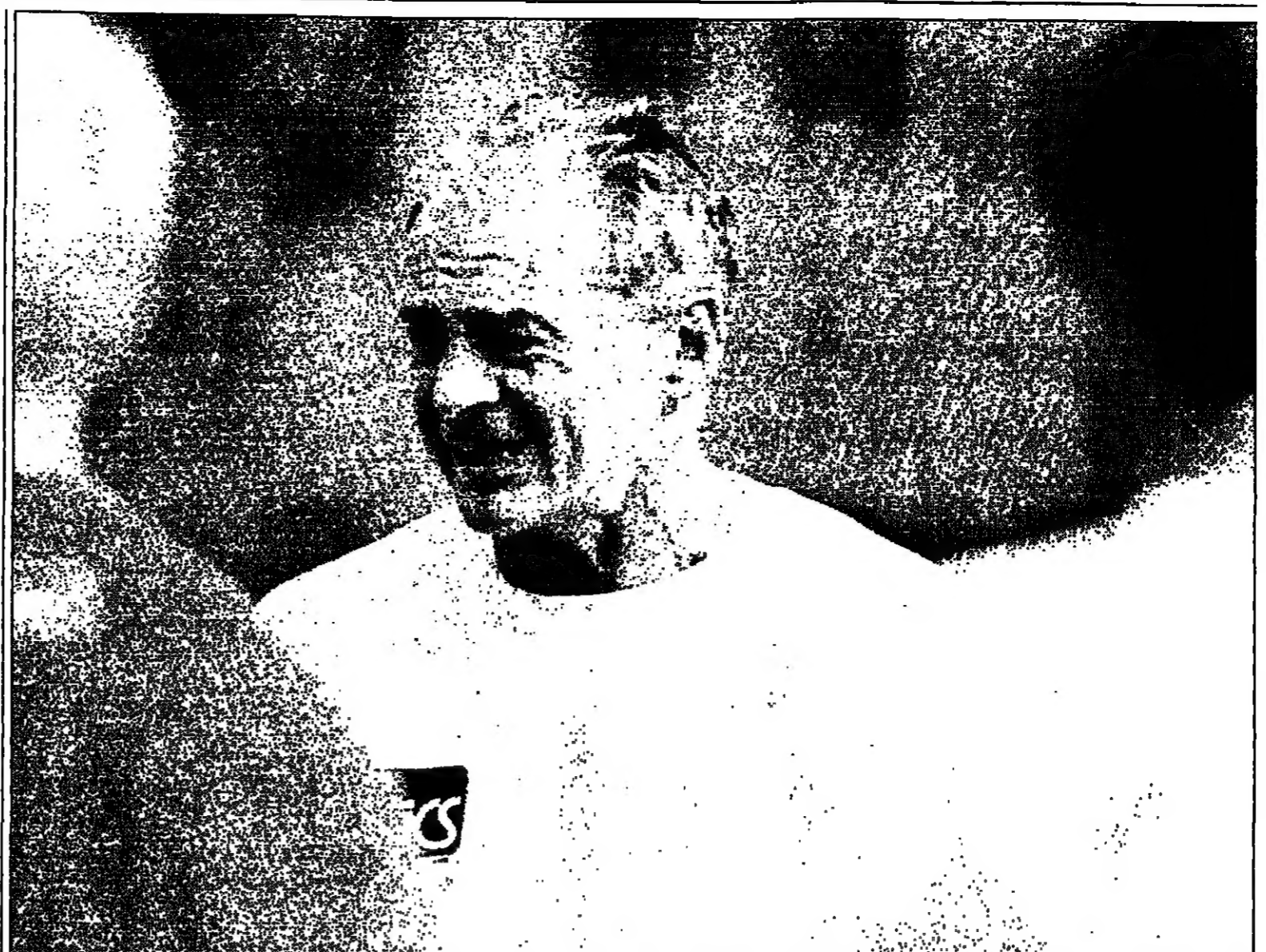
John Kerr at Wembley

UDO PHILIPPAERTS on the Trudo Jannique won the first international event of the Horse of the Year Show yesterday, the Welcome Stakes, in which Belgians filled four of the top six places.

Some in the 40-strong field treated this one-round class as a warm-up for the tests ahead, but the Belgians had other ideas and Francois Mathey set a strong pace on Ivor in the first of 14 clears.

until edged out by Philippaerts, who recently won his fourth Belgian championship. David McPherson, the Kent-based South African, won a four-horse jump-off for the Grade B Championship with the only clear on Lapino.

Tickets available for WASPS RUGBY CLUB. Rangers Stadium, Loftus Road, London. BOOK TICKETS NOW 0171 413 3355



Talking it through... the coach Phil Larder gets serious while taking training for tomorrow's Test

PHOTOGRAPH: VICTORIA MATTHEWS

Lions must fight their own battle

Andy Wilson reports from Nadi on Great Britain's selections for a slightly overshadowed first ever Test in Fiji

IT IS typical of a disastrous year for international rugby that the build-up to Great Britain's first ever Test in Fiji tomorrow should be overshadowed by events in a Sydney courtroom.

The Fijian Rugby League, like the professional game in Britain, is firmly aligned with Super League, having been contracted along with other Pacific nations at the International Rugby League Board meeting in London in April 1995...

reasons. Manoa Thompson, formerly of South Sydney and, briefly, Warrington, will take over the captaincy. Most of his team-mates, moreover, have first-grade experience either in Australia, for example the loose forward Lee Nagilagi, or in England.

Britain will have to kick off at Prince Charles' Park under a fierce afternoon sun; and the Fijians will be an immeasurably stronger side for an extra year's experience.

Powell, a former Sheffield player, has been promoted from the bench to left centre, effectively in place of Joey Hayes. Alan Hunte switches to the right wing after passing a fitness test on a back injury.

Four of them played in Super League in England last season, Joe Tamani on the wing for Bradford Bulls, and three others for Sheffield Eagles: Walsale Sovatabua will start at full-back, Joe Dakuitoga in the second row, and Mala Yasa at prop in direct opposition to his Sheffield captain Paul Broadbent, who gains his second Great Britain cap after a solid performance in Papua New Guinea on Saturday.

Keith Senior will be the fifth Sheffield player involved, a surprising choice on the bench for the Lions but deservedly there after two impressive try-scoring games on tour so far. Senior, a 20-year-old from Huddersfield, gets his chance because Daryl

Sport in brief

Squash

The world champion Jansher Khan, who was banned from the Super League for the whole of last season, has agreed to return to play for Surbiton, writes Richard Jago. The Pakistani will be returning to action in Britain in January after an interval of 20 months.

Jansher, who was punished for not trying while playing against the Fijians, with a 25,263 crowd welcoming Phil Larder's side back to the north after the victory over Australia at Wembley four days earlier. Tomorrow Great

Tennis

Mark Miles, the chief executive of the ATP Tour, has warned players that they face instant ejection from tournaments for abusive on-court behaviour. In an open letter Miles said: "We will tolerate a player's verbal or physical abuse of an official, fellow player, member of the media or spectator."

In August Andre Agassi was kicked out of the RCA Championships in Indianapolis. During his match against Daniel Nestor he cursed officials and slammed a ball into the stands.

Hockey

Wales crashed to their second defeat in four games at the World Cup preliminary tournament in Sardinia yesterday. Simon Organ and Mark Smith scored their goals in their 3-2 defeat by China in Pool A. Wales face Canada tomorrow.

Chess

England's fourth board, the 22-year-old Matthew Sadler from Chatham, has won an individual gold medal at the Erevan Olympiad, writes Leonard Barden. He follows the previous English winners John Nunn (1984) and Nigel Short (1986).

Sadler's 81 per cent score was the second-best of the Olympiad, ahead of Garry Kasparov's 78 per cent on top board for Russia. Susan Lalic of Sutton took the top-board women's bronze.

Cricket

Australia's fast bowler Craig McDermott will miss the first three of five home Tests against West Indies in November and December because of a knee injury. He will undergo surgery next week to repair tendon damage.

Advertisement for American Express Charge Card. Features a large graphic of a hand holding a card and the text: "besides the American Express Card, you also get replaced". Includes contact number 0800 700 767 and American Express logo.

Vertical text on the far left edge of the page, including "Friday October 4", "Golf", "Pained Woosie set for surgery", and "Michael Britten in Bed".

# SportsGuardian

## UNITED'S MANAGER TAKES THE STAND AT BLACKPOOL TO CONDEMN THE FA



One goal, lots of balls... Tony Blair and Alex Ferguson under fire at Blackpool yesterday where the United manager had some harsh words for the FA PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARQUES

# Old Ferguson, new moan

John Duncan hears a party conference outburst over the Premiership fixture list

ALEX FERGUSON launched an attack on the Football Association for failing to prevent United and Liverpool meeting in a Premiership match on Saturday week, days before both sides are in European action.

Conference fringe meeting. "I don't know who organised it but the FA needs to look at it." He is furious that while Continental teams are given resting time and easy games before UEFA competitions, the programme in England carries on regardless.

"When we were beaten by Juventus we were over-powered. The Italians have learned what the Brits were good at 10 years ago and have added power to their technique, absolute power. We cannot catch up because we don't have the time between matches. Playing matches doesn't make great footballers, practice does."

## Party tricks with the world game



Vincent Hanna

MY TAXI driver in Blackpool was a comedian, but they all are. After a warm-up joke about ethnic minorities he said: "Tell me three clubs with swear words in their titles."

castle United fanatic, still in therapy from the Charity Shield, and Pendry is respected in football circles. He is also popular in the party, not least because he can get tickets to almost anything.

Clare Short regularly upbraids her colleagues about "little boys' games" and Barbara Follett's laughter at my joke seemed slightly uneasy. But then she is standing in Stevenage, where football is not a laughing matter.

In July he asked Eric Cantona to donate his Cup final shirt to a party fund-raiser in the Savoy. It sold for £17,500, paid by Brian Davies who donated it (and also one from Ryan Giggs) to the International Fund for Animal Welfare, which put them in a safe in East Sussex where they remain.

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More soccer, page 14

AT THE fringe meeting Ferguson kept to football. He made a plea to reduce the number of matches and told how Cantona had re-taught the team the virtues of practice.

**When Laura J Hird had her first story accepted by Rebel Inc, she received two pages of comments from Kevin Williamson; when a friend's story was turned down, she received four pages of detailed criticism instead of a rejection slip. The Malcolm McLaren of literary Edinburgh**

**FridayReview page 4**

**Guardian Crossword No 20,775**  
 Set by Rufus

**Across**

- Injured fliers returned to base (7)
- The crown takes a firm course, if backed (7)
- Bill comes back with a new coil of fabric (2,6)
- How to win a ballet competition? (2,6)
- Written authority for many to strike (4)
- Currently the chief form of jazz? (10)
- Newly leased building for sheep (11)
- I've acted on new indication of a deal (6,4)
- Turn on a fool (4)
- Sad passage to quote in turn (8)
- Run off at outset of disturbance (6)

**Down**

- Stick to the point as a junior diplomat (7)
- A drink - Ben has it as a cocktail (6)
- Show improvement with respect to criminal record (6)
- Calm artfully created (8)
- He is or could be a shopkeeper (8)
- Not involved in fight, so not changed (7)
- A copper collection? (6,5)
- Covered outhouse full of warmth (8)
- Injury received in turning over? (3-5)
- Go for the money first (7)

**18** It may wilt and droop in the centre (7)  
**20** One way to get inspiration (8)  
**21** Avoided potential duel with evictor (5)

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Saturday October 4 1996

The Rome and Juliet Mafia wedding week, page 17

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The real is is justice

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